

Who Is the "ONLY True God"?

Who is the true and living God? Who is the God of the Old Testament? Who is the Creator? How many Gods does the Bible speak of as the "only true God"? Who is the LORD (YHVH)? What is the REAL ORIGIN of the "Word" or "Logos" of God? Is the true God a Duality or a Trinity? What does Scripture mean by the expression "the FAMILY of God" (Eph.3:15)? What is the REAL DIFFERENCE between God the Father and the Logos or One who became Jesus Christ? It's time the TRUTH were fully understood, once and for all time!

William F. Dankenbring

The Scriptures teach that ultimately and originally, in the strict sense of the word, that there was ONE GOD -- the One who became the Father. Jesus Christ Himself stated this fact unequivocally when He said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee THE ONLY TRUE GOD, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent" (John 17:3).

The apostle Paul corroborated this sublime and divine truth when he wrote to the Corinthians, "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered unto idols, we know that an idol is is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but ONE. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us THERE IS BUT ONE GOD, THE FATHER, of whom are ALL THINGS, and we in him; and ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, by whom are all things, and we by him" (I Cor.8:4-6).

Notice! The inspired Word of God, which cannot be broken (John 10:35), which is TRUTH (John 17:17), says plainly that the Father, in the ultimate sense, is the "One GOD" from whom or of whom are "ALL THINGS." That by necessity means EVERYTHING -- including the One who later became Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

There is, therefore, a clear differentiation made between the ONE ORIGINAL, ULTIMATE BEING KNOWN AS "GOD," and called "God" in these Scriptures, and the other Being known as the "Word" or "Logos" of God, the One who became our Saviour and

Redeemer, Lord and Master, Jesus Christ!

The Bible does not contradict itself. Jesus Christ was not just mumbling in His final prayer for His disciples to the Father, nor was the apostle Paul absent-mindedly misstating the truth. Both were telling the absolute, unequivocal truth -- and a great, awesome TRUTH it really is, when we come to fully understand it, and its vast meaning and amplifications and repercussions, and significance for US, who today are the "begotten CHILDREN OF GOD!"

"In the Beginning Was the WORD"

In the book of John we read, "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 nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1-3). And verse 14 tells us, "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."

Notice! There is a clear distinction made here between One called "God," and One who is called the "Word." Although the Word is also said to be "God," and was instrumental in the entire Creation of the Universe, nevertheless, there seems to be a clear point made here that this Word was with One who was primarily known as "GOD." The Greek word for "God" in these verses is Theos, and can mean, "a deity, the supreme Divinity, figuratively, a magistrate, God, god," and so forth (Strong's Concordance, #2316). The context, of course, must tell us which is the correct definition in each individual case.

This verse simply states that these two individuals both existed "IN THE BEGINNING," and that both were "God," yet there was a subtle and important difference between the two. The phrase "in the beginning" is interesting. The literal, explicit, original Greek translated "in the beginning" actually was simply, "IN BEGINNING," or "IN A BEGINNING." The article "the" was supplied by English translators.

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

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

In other words, the original Hebrew says, "In beginnings," or, "by beginnings." Furthermore, the Word for "God" here is "Elohim," which literally means, "The Mighty Ones." It is a unitary-plural word, much like "church" or "family" in English. A "church" or "family" may be composed of two or more individuals or people -- one church or one family, yet many

members in that church or family.

What, then, should we learn from these verses? First of all, we should realize that there were MANY BEGINNINGS -- not just ONE! The record of geology of the earth bears this out. There was a time when God created the kinds of life we see on the earth today. There was a time when He created a PREVIOUS world -- the world of the dinosaurs. There was a time when He created the world of the trilobites and ancient sea creatures. Then, of course, there was the time when He created THE EARTH ITSELF, and the HEAVENS. Scientists surmise that the earth and solar system are perhaps 5 billion years old, but the Universe as a whole with all its galaxies is believed to be, by evidence of the "red shift" effect caused by retreating galaxies, something in the range of 15-20 billion years old. Thus God is responsible for what we could term "A SERIES OF CREATIONS," AND NOT JUST ONE!

Even before the physical Universe was made, God created the angelic world. God tells us in the book of Job, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; when the MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7). The time when the angels were created, then, PRECEDED the time of the creation of the earth itself!

This brings up an interesting question. What was the very FIRST of all God's Creations? Interesting, Jesus, who was the Logos or Word of God (John 1:1-3), says, in the book of Revelation, "I am Alpha and Omega, the FIRST and the last" (Rev.1:18). Some think Jesus simply meant here that He was the first begotten of God, and the first one BORN of God in the resurrection. But that is NOT what He said! He simply said, "I am the FIRST"! Was He implying by this that in an original "beginning," that He Himself was the FIRST of all the original Created Beings, the FIRST one to be created and to come into existence?

With this tantalizing thought in mind, notice that Jesus later said to the Laodicean Church, "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD" (Rev.3:14). Jesus reiterated, "I am Alpha and Omega, THE BEGINNING and the ending" (Rev.1:8). He repeated this expression in Revelation 21:6 and said in Revelation 22:13, "I am Alpha and Omega, the BEGINNING and the end, the FIRST and the last."

The word translated "beginning" in all these verses is the VERY SAME WORD TRANSLATED AS "BEGINNING" IN JOHN 1:1! Throughout the New Testament, in 39 places, it is translated "beginning." It is at no time translated "beginner," or "originator," or "some similar term. It is always used in terms of describing a beginning, not one who "begins" by "creating" or "originating" something else! It is the word *arche*, in Greek, and means "a commencement, or (concrete) chief (in various applications of ORDER, TIME, PLACE, OR RANK): beginning, corner, first, magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule" (Strong's Concordance, #746).

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon says of this word, "1. beginning, origin. a. used absolutely of the beginning of all things. b. in a relative sense, of the beginning of the thing

spoken of. 2. the person or thing that commences, the FIRST PERSON OR THING IN A SERIES, THE LEADER. 3. that by which anything begins to be, the origin, active cause. 4. the extremity of a thing: of the corners of a sail. 5. the first place, principality, rule, magistracy."

When this term is used in the sense of "beginning," it is clear that the most probable rendering would be simply "the beginning" -- describing One whose origins were at the "beginning," as well as describing One who was indeed the "first Person in a SERIES" -- that is, the FIRST ONE TO BE CREATED or the FIRST ONE TO BECOME OR BE MADE GOD, by a procreative act of the Father, or the first One to to be BORN of God at the resurrection!

Jesus Christ is the "first in a series." The apostle Paul wrote, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER: CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father . . ." (I Cor.15:22-24).

Much of the truth of the Bible is DUAL. Much prophecy is dual in application. Even so, many spiritual truths, also, have a DUAL meaning. Even as Christ was the FIRST in a series of "men" to be born of God at the resurrection, using the duality principle, was He not also IN THE BEGINNING the "first" of all God's created Beings, One made like the Father, and who also therefore was "God"?

This is indeed a "mind-blowing truth," a revelation of the highest order of importance and significance. It is literally AWESOME to contemplate! It "blows you away." The ramifications are enormous. This would mean that God the Father HAS THE ABILITY TO CREATE IN HIS OWN SPIRITUAL IMAGE OTHERS LIKE HIMSELF! That is, like all living things, He, too, has the ABILITY TO "REPRODUCE" HIMSELF!

But why should this be thought "impossible" in the eyes of men? Why should it be considered blasphemy, or heresy, or "impossible," for GOD to "reproduce"?

The Truth about GOD

Let's understand this! God, whom we call the "Father," created first His own original offspring, the Logos, or Word, who was later incarnated as Jesus Christ the Messiah (John 1:1-3, 14). Through the Logos or Word, He originally made all things (the Son or Logos Himself excepted) that exist in the universe (John 1:1-3, Col.1:13-18; Heb.1:1-2).

Then, at the creation of mankind, we read, "And God [Elohim, the "Mighty Ones"] said, Let us make MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS . . . So God CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26, 27). God then blessed them, and "God said unto them, BE FRUIT FUL, AND MULTIPLY, and replenish ["FILL"] the earth . . ." (verse 28).

Do we begin to grasp this fundamental truth, this awesome principle? WE ARE IN

GOD'S IMAGE! But why would He do that? Obviously, He is RE-CREATING or REPRODUCING HIMSELF -- AS A FAMILY! Through us He intends ultimately to Himself MULTIPLY the members in His God Family! From the TWO that exist at present, He intends to eventually have BILLIONS!

Today we are in God's image, but physical, fleshly, and we can die and perish. But ultimately, God intends for us to be made SPIRITUAL, to become SPIRIT as HE is Spirit -- and then we will possess all the attributes of the Godhead, God Himself!

What ain incredible Plan! What a mind-boggling, dumfounding Idea! God the Father has thought it through; He has examined all the ramifications and implications; and He has decided that it is GOOD for Him to do so. In fact, we read in Genesis, "And God saw everything that he had made [including man], and, behold, IT WAS VERY GOOD" (Genesis 1:31). That is God's own estimation and valuation of His Creation, and His PLAN for mankind!

We, as have the potential to become born of God, spirit beings -- sons of God -- very members of the GOD FAMILY, Jesus being our Elder Brother -- in the resurrection (Heb.2:6-9; II Cor.6:17-18; Eph.3:14-15), carrying the very NAME of "God" (Eph.3:14-15).

We will be just like Jesus, who is the image of the Father, so we will also be the image of the Father (I John 3:1-2, Heb.1:1-3). We will have attributes of the Father, and look like Him, and like Christ, even as members of a human family are all human and resemble their parents (Phil.3:21). This is of course a great divine "mystery," beyond full human understanding and comprehension ("we see as through a glass darkly" -- I Cor.13:12).

God's Amazing, Incredible Plan

However, let me be plain -- the Bible is replete with incontrovertible evidence that Christ pre-existed His human form. He was not merely a human babe born of Mary, with no pre-existence in the God Family. He was originally the "agent" of the Father who created the entire universe. But He was more than just an "agent." Angels, sent with messages, are also "agents." But He was a SON of the Father by original creation, and was FULLY DIVINE in every respect, and therefore ALSO bore the name "YHVH" (Zech.14:1-4, I Cor.10:4; Psa.45:1-6) and "Elohim" (Gen.1:1). Therefore, we do not need to stretch or twist the Scriptures to suggest that every place where the One who is called YHVH in the Old Testament, it actually refers to the Father, and that when this term is used to refer to Christ, it merely means as the "agent" of the Father. God does not call His "agents" by His own name. As Isaiah said, quoting God, "I am the LORD: that is my NAME: and my glory [including His name!] will I not give to another . . ." (Isa.42:8).

As Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" (Heb.1:5). Angels do not say, "I AM YHVH." They say, "YHVH sent me," or "the Most High sent me." Therefore they are not "very God," or literal "sons of God," and members of the divine God Family, as Jesus Christ is. God does not give His Name to another

who is merely His agent. He only gives His name to HIS SON (or sons). David specifically said, "The LORD [YHVH] is my shepherd" (Psa.23:1). Who is this "LORD"? Jesus Christ Himself is the "Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-14). Therefore, He is the "LORD" [YHVH].

To believe or say that YHVH always only refers to the Father in the Old Testament makes Christ a liar, who said no man had ever seen the Father, yet Moses and 70 of the elders of Israel looked upon and ate a meal with YHVH (Exodus 24:10). However, in the Ultimate sense, the Father is the only true God -- the rest of us are His offspring, including Jesus Christ, who, however, has the pre-eminence over all the rest of us. He is unique.

Is Christ also "VERY GOD"? What does this Mean?

Jesus Christ said, "My Father is greater than I" (John 10:27-30; 5:19-30). Jesus also said, "All power is GIVEN me in heaven and in earth" (Matt.28:19-20). Eventually the Son also Himself shall be subject to the Father, when He delivers up the Kingdom to Him (I Cor.15:24-28). The apostle Paul said, "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (see I Cor.8:4-6, especially v.6). As I Timothy 2:5 says, "For there is but one God, and one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus."

Do these Scriptures "put the lie" to the amazing discovery we have already seen, that Jesus Christ is also GOD, and that we have the potential to become God-beings as well?

Not at all! Many people have a pagan concept of God, and they tink of Him as a sort of all-encompassing, static, ethereal Being who fills the Universe and knows the future from the beginning -- who is changless, absolute -- like some sort of "spiritual CONCRETE." They fail to understand what it means for God to be a sensate, living, active, dynamic, thinking, planning, creating, functioning, actively involved BEING who Himself has dreams, desires, emotions, feelings, marvelous ideas which He would someday like to implement in His Universe -- as well as someday even create billions of more "Universes"!

God is not some Monolithic Giant, faceless, austere, stern, never-bending, unyielding, adamantine. When men became grossly evil before the Flood, we read, "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it GRIEVED him at his heart" (Genesis 6:6).

But despite obstacles, set-backs, and "trials," God is persevering with His Plan for mankind. He is determined to accomplish it, and to FINISH it! As Job wrote, "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my CHANGE come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a DESIRE to the work of thine hands" (Job 14:14-15).

Satan's Great est Deceptions

Satan the devil has truly deceived the whole world -- all nations (Rev.12:9). He has blinded the minds of those who do not believe or understand this fascinating, epochal truth of God (II Cor.4:4). Let's understand!

On the one hand, Satan has deceived the world's churches into believing that God is some sort of mystical "Trinity." Thus they believe that GOD IS LIMITED FOREVER, like a "closed triangle."

On the other hand, Satan has deceived others into thinking and believing that Jesus Christ Himself is NOT "divine," or truly "God" at all. They believe that He was simply a "man" who "made good"! They believe that He had no pre-existence whatsoever. One such teacher is Anthony Buzzard, a former student at Ambassador College, back in the late 50's and early 60's, when I also was a student there. He claims Jesus is not God and ridicules His pre-existence. One of his favorite expressions or questions seems to be something like, "How can something *exist* before it is even *born*?" Thus in his writing he creates doubt and weakens the faith of many.

What is the truth of the matter? Satan, like any clever deceiver, has created deceptions to catch people in his net, by teaching TWO EXTREMES -- the false doctrine of the Trinity, which makes Christ "co-equal" with the Father, and "co-eternal"; and the false deception which relegates Christ's divinity to the class of superstition and fraud!

Concerning the divinity of Christ, the truth, as is often the case, lies right in the MIDDLE of these two extreme positions! The Anthony Buzzard view of Christ, and that of many others, that He was simply a man who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and had no pre-existence, is tantamount to denying the Saviour, a doctrine of demons, causing loss of salvation. As Peter prophesied, "There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, EVEN DENYING THE LORD that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (II Pet.2:1).

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

On the other hand, the Trinitarian view of God is pagan, and has no basis in the Scriptures. Nowhere does either the Old or New Testaments show or teach that God is a "Trinity" composed of three Persons. The Scriptures do not teach that the Holy Spirit is a "Person" at all, but rather the POWER of God (Luke 1:35).

Also, those who teach that Christ existed forever, with the Father, are teaching what could be called "a DUAL Godhead." This would imply that Christ and the Father are EQUAL in every respect -- co-equal, co-eternal. But the Scriptures simply do not teach this!

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

The Father is the Supreme HEAD of the God Family, and always will be. Jesus repeated said the Father "sent" Him, and one who sends another is greater than the one sent. Jesus Himself declared clearly, "My Father is GREATER Than I" (JOHN 14:28).

Some say that my teaching is very similar to the Trinity view, since I have written that "Christ is VERY GOD," and said He is "VERY God of VERY GOD." However, there are major differences between the truth of God, revealed in Scripture, and the "Trinity" view of God! The Trinity concept LIMITS God and the God-head to "three Persons." Is God limited? The very word "Elohim" in Genesis 1:1, means "The MIGHTY ONES," a uni-plural word, like "family" or "church." The singular form is "El," which means "The Mighty One." God used this word of Himself in Genesis. God said, "Let us make man IN OUR image" (Gen.1:26). We human beings are now in His physical likeness; someday, in the resurrection, we will be in His SPIRITUAL LIKENESS!

Men and women "reproduce" after their own image and likeness, through genetic sexual reproduction. Can we limit God? Can we tell the Father that He cannot reproduce new God beings in His own GOD Family? He will always be the HEAD, and no one is really co-equal or co-eternal with Him. We will be younger God beings, descended from Him and Christ (The Logos).

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

Jesus spoke of this sublime truth. He wrote: "That they all may BE ONE; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be ONE IN US. . . . And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may BE ONE, even AS WE ARE ONE: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be PERFECT IN ONE . . ." (John 17:21-23).

This is speaking of a very intimate, close relationship -- something we can scarcely comprehend or understand. But human marriage is a TYPE of the divine relationship. The human FAMILY is also a TYPE of the God Family. Yes, Jesus Christ IS "God," and we will be His younger brothers (Rom.8:17), co-heirs with Him of the KINGDOM OF GOD! To put it another way, the "Kingdom of God," the true gospel which we preach, when we really understand it, is that GOD IS A KINGDOM. Human kingdoms are merely a TYPE of the supreme, divine GOD KINGDOM. Human kingdoms are filled with and composed of human beings. The GOD KINGDOM WILL BE FILLED WITH DIVINE SONS OF GOD -- HIS EXPANDED, SUPER-FAMILY of "GODS" JUST LIKE HIM, but subordinate, under His everlasting authority, ONE with Him in plan, thought, motivation, and deed, just as He and Christ are ONE!

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

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

*Is the One Who Became Jesus Christ Sometimes
the YHVH of the Old Testament?*

I have written before that Jesus Christ was, in many Scriptures, the YHVH of the Old Testament -- the One who will stand someday on the Mount of Olives (Zech.14:4; Acts 1:9-12). Jesus clearly said that no human being has ever seen the Father or even heard His voice (John 1:18; 5:37). Yet Moses heard the voice of YHVH (Exodus 34-14), and so did all Israel (Exo.20:18-20). Moses and 70 of the elders of Israel sat down and ATE with YHVH, and "SAW THE GOD OF ISRAEL" (Exo.24:9-11). This could not have been the Father, who had never been seen by man; so it must have been the One who became Christ! (I Cor.10:4). My articles, "Is Jesus God?" and "Who Was the YHVH of the Old Testament" discuss this subject fully.

Nevertheless, the Father is greater than the Son, and the original "one True God," the Father, is greater than the Word or Logos of God. Paul makes this difference in rank and authority in the Kingdom of God very plain. He wrote to the Corinthians, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father" (I Cor.15:24). Paul goes on, "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" (I Cor.15:24-28).

Read that last phrase very carefully: "*that God may BE ALL in ALL.*" That is not just rhetorical nonsense. It is not just vain puffery. It is LITERAL! IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, GOD WILL BE *IN US ALL* -- AND WE WILL BE *IN HIM!* God will literally be *ALL IN ALL!*

Can we really grasp the overwhelming significance of this wonderful truth of God? The Father is God in the PRIMARY sense, and Christ, or the Word or Logos, is God in a SECONDARY sense. Also, those BORN of God in the resurrection will also be God, in a TERTIARY sense! Does this not make wonderful "sense"? In the strict and absolute sense, as the apostle Paul wrote, there is "ONE GOD and one mediator, the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim.2:5). This, however, does not mean that Christ is not also "God."

In Hebrews, chapter 1, we read that Jesus is the one whom God, the Father, "hath appointed HEIR of all things, BY WHOM also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the EXPRESS IMAGE of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb.1:1-3). Of this same Jesus, the Father says, "Let all the angels of God WORSHIP him" (verse 6). Since He is worthy of WORSHIP, He must also be "God"! To worship anything besides "God," would be IDOLATRY!

Furthermore, the Father Himself calls Christ "God." We read, "But unto the Son he saith,

Thy throne, O GOD, is for ever and ever" (verse 8)! Clearly Jesus Christ is ALSO VERY GOD! There should be NO QUESTION OR DOUBT about this flundamental, clear, precise TRUTH!

Being the very "Son of God," by itself, meant that Jesus was GOD! Even as the son of a human father is also "human"!

The Son or Offspring of God -- a DUALITY!

However, Christ was the SON of the Father in a DUAL sense. He became the "Son of God," by being born as His Son from the womb of the virgin Mary. But, in another sense, He was also God the Father's "original Son" by CREATION or some form of Divine Reproduction which the Father has not revealed, but we see all kinds of reproduction of living things in nature -- cell division, sexual, asexual, and so forth.

This truth is hinted at in Proverbs 8 where one called "Wisdom" says: "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH . . . Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I BROUGHT FORTH: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields . . . When he prepared the heavens, I WAS THERE . . . Then I was BY him, as one BROUGHT UP with him [not that "with him" is in italics, and was supplied by the King James Translators; this expression was not in the original Hebrew, and is really not necessary for understanding the context!]: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him" (Prov.8:22-30).

This is the One who BECAME Jesus Christ. Notice how He says He was "BROUGHT FORTH." This is very important! Now notice the Words of Christ Jesus Himself! He said in His prayer to the Father: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine OWNSELF with the glory which I HAD WITH THEE *before the world was*" (John 17:5).

Jesus also said to His disciples, "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I CAME OUT FROM GOD. I CAME FORTH FROM THE FATHER, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father" (John 16:27-28). Did you get that? Did you understand it? JESUS CAME OUT FROM GOD THE FATHER! This is a divine mystery, a great incomprehensible mystery -- but Jesus said it, and He meant it, LITERALLY!

If we believe He meant exactly what He said, then at some time in the primordial past, before the Creation, He came out from the Father as a separate BEING -- a Companion for the Father of His very own substance and essence!

Jesus further alluded to this when He said, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last" (Rev.1:11), and also, "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD" (Revelation 3:14).

What an awesome truth! May God the Father give you grace, and mercy, to really comprehend this wonderful, awesome, incredible truth!

Has Jesus Christ Existed Throughout All Eternity?

One person wrote to me, saying, in essence, "John 1:1-3 says the Word -- Jesus Christ -- made or created ALL things. If He Himself were created, then this Scripture could not be literally true, could it? Furthermore, Hebrews 7:3 says Melchizedek -- a name for Jesus prior to His human birth -- was 'without father, without mother, WITHOUT BEGINNING OF DAYS . . .' Does this not imply He must be eternal, with no beginning, and therefore not "created" at some point? Habakkuk 1:12 says, 'O LORD (Jesus Christ), are you not from EVERLASTING?' Psalm 90:1-2 says, '. . . From everlasting to everlasting you [YHVH or Christ] are God.'" And in several places, the YHVH, and Christ Himself, are identified as the "'AM," a timeless expression where past, present and future are meaningless concepts (see John 8:58, Rev.1:17-18, 21:2-6, 22:6). In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is referred to as 'Everlasting Father,' and in Isaiah 63:16 we read, 'You O LORD [YHVH] are our Father; Our Redeemer [Jesus Christ] FROM EVERLASTING is your name.' Finally, Micah 5:2 speaks of Christ, 'whose origins are from of old, from ancient times' (NIV). The King James Version has this, 'whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.' The marginal note for this phrase gives, 'FROM DAYS OF ETERNITY.'"

This correspondent goes on to say, "There is a geometric theorem which states that 'two parallel lines meet at INFINITY.' The reality, of course, is that parallel lines never meet. Just so with the Word -- Jesus Christ. If his 'origins are from of old, from days of ETERNITY,' then in reality He had NO ORIGIN. Jesus Christ has existed FROM ETERNITY. These Scriptures seem to contradict your teaching that Jesus Christ Himself was 'created' or came forth from the Father at some point in time!"

These are very good questions! Let's understand the answers!

First of all, we need to get several things straight, here. If, as this writer contends, Jesus Christ in His preoriginal form as the Logos of God existed for all eternity, at the side of the Father, as a separate Being, then we face the inescapable conclusion that there were NOT ONE BUT TWO GODS who "inhabit eternity." That is, such a teaching clearly would imply that both individuals were "co-eternal" -- both "YHVH" -- and therefore, seemingly, "CO-EQUAL."

This concept, however, does violence to the truth that the Lord God is truly and ultimately "ONE." As God told Moses, "Hear O Israel, The LORD our God is one LORD" (Deut.6: 4). If there were TWO separate beings, both being LORD, from all eternity, then it would seem this Scripture should say, "The LORD our God is TWO LORDS," or "TWO YHVH." Such is obviously not the case. God is ONE. But if like two individual parallel lines, that never converged, they both went individually back into eternity, it would sure seem that we are looking at the reality of TWO beings called God, or a DUAL Godhead, and not really "ONE" original, ultimate "LORD."

Secondly, if this concept be true, then it seems very wrong that Jesus would constantly imply that the Father was "GREAT ER" than He was, that He was under the Authority of the

Father. How could this be if they were both ETERNAL, EQUAL, AND CO-EXISTENT FOREVER? It would not compute. If indeed One is GREATER than the other, then it would seem also that One is Older than the other. If they were indeed "separate but equal," then Jesus should not have been subordinate to the Father, but He should have pointed out that actually He had EQUAL authority -- which, of course, He never did, for it is NOT TRUE! The subordination of Christ to the Father is clear all through the New Testament.

Thirdly, Jesus actually prayed to the Father, and worshiped the Father. If He Himself were EQUAL from all eternity, this would seem like a travesty and mockery of the truth. Jesus prayed to the Father because the Father was His own "GOD." He worshiped the Father, because the Father was GREATER than He in the God Family. This would imply and indicate that the Father was greater than Christ and therefore pre-existed Him in eternity.

The Hebrew Word for "Eternity"

When we talk about such concepts as "infinity" and "eternity," we must be very careful. The terms can be very ambiguous and misleading. We often tend to read our own English interpretations into them. For example, the actual Hebrew word translated "eternity" and "everlasting" does not literally mean those terms, necessarily. The Hebrew word is actually *OLAM* and simply means: "concealed, ie., the vanishing point, time out of mind, (practically) eternity." It is variously translated in the following ways -- notice! "always(s), ancient (time), any more, continuance, eternal, ever (lasting), of old, ever (more), lasting, perpetual, at any time, beginning of the world, without end" (Strong's Concordance, #5369). The root meaning of this word, as the *Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* shows, means "to hide, conceal." Truly, God's origin is hidden or concealed from mankind. The word is used for "remote time," used of the future or the past. It is sometimes translated "for ever and ever" which can mean "from eternity to eternity" (Dan.2:20).

The Hebrew word can also mean "unto death." This same word occurs in Exodus 21:6, where we read: "Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall SERVE HIM FOR EVER." Obviously, the servant would only serve his master for the rest of this physical life. Thus "olam," translated "for ever," here, actually means "unto death," or "the rest of his life."

Therefore, let's examine these Scriptures which the letter writer brought up, carefully and cautiously. First of all, when John 1:1-3 says the Word or Logos was instrumental in the creation or making of "all things," the context itself must tell us that He Himself is excepted from those "all things." Similarly, when it says in Philippians that "every knee" in heaven and earth shall bow before Jesus Christ, it must be understood that the knees of the Father are excepted from "all knees" mentioned in this Scripture (see Phil.2:10). We must not try to take the Scriptures TOO rigidly, too literally. We must also exercise a modicum of common sense.

Similarly, when Jesus said to the Jews, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58), this does not necessarily imply timelessness or that He had no beginning whatsoever. It simply

means that He had the power of "self-existence" before Abraham was even born -- that He possessed the NAME of YHVH, the "I AM" (Exodus 3:13-14).

By the way, just because the One who became Christ had the Name YHVH, meaning "I AM THAT I AM," does not imply that He existed for all eternity. When WE are born into the God Family, we also will possess the NAME YHVH -- yet we most definitely have had a "beginning," a time when we were conceived, by God's Spirit, and a definite time when we will be literally BORN of the Spirit (John 3:3-8). When we become members of the God Family, we INHERIT THAT NAME -- even though we as individuals have NOT lived for all eternity. But since we actually become ONE with the Father, and HE personally has always existed, therefore in that sense we participate in His eternity, sharing it with Him, as we are "ONE" with Him.

As to the verse in Hebrews 7:3, where it says of Melchisedek, ". . . without father or mother, without genealogy, WITHOUT BEGINNING OF DAYS or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest for ever" (NIV). Notice carefully here. This person was "without beginning of days." What does that mean? The definition of a "day" is a morning and an evening (Genesis 1, throughout) -- that is, 24 hours. A "day" is defined as one revolution of the earth upon its axis. Therefore, all this verse is really telling us is that Melchisedek PRE-EXISTED the diurnal rotation of the earth upon its axis! In other words, He was "made" or "existed" BEFORE THE EARTH AND SUN WERE CREATED! That fact does not imply or suggest eternal existence. Even the angels were created BEFORE the earth was (Job 38:4-7).

Again, Habakkuk 1:12 says that the YHVH (the one who became Christ and/or the Father, the term can apply to either one of them, technically) is "from EVERLASTING" (also Psalm 90:1-2). The Hebrew word for "everlasting" here is OLAM -- meaning, literally, "concealed," "hidden," "to the vanishing point," etc. It does not necessarily mean or imply what we think of as "for ever and ever," or "eternity." This word or the actual meaning of it, must be understood FROM THE CONTEXT and SUBJECT MATTER of who or what it is talking about. If it were talking about a slave, it would mean "unto death." If it is talking about the Logos, or Word, it must be understood to mean from the original primordial time when He began His individual existence as a separate Being apart from the Father. If it is talking about the Father, then we can understand it to mean or include "forever" or "eternity."

What about Micah 5:2?

Micah 5:2 actually implies the very opposite of what the letter writer suggests it proves. Speaking of Christ the Messiah, Micah wrote, "But you Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, WHOSE ORIGINS [notice -- He really does have an ORIGIN!] ARE FROM OLD ["old" does not mean "eternity"], from ANCIENT TIMES" -- that is, some point in TIME which is *very ancient* -- perhaps billions or even trillions of years ago (scientists and astronomers believe the Universe itself is about 15 to 20 billion years old, as we count time).

The marginal note referred to, "from days of eternity," has little real meaning, as "days"

would not exist before the earth and solar system were created. The real key to this verse is the mysterious word "OLAM" which, as I have shown, is full of surprises and hidden, concealed, multiple meanings and can be interpreted a vast number of ways.

The Hebrew Tanakh has this verse, "And you, O Bethlehem of Ephrath, least among the clans of Judah, from you one shall come forth to rule Israel for Me -- One whose origin is from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:1-2). The Critical Experimental Commentary states of this last expression, "literally, from the days of eternity, or the days OF THE AGES." Thus the word "olam" in Hebrew is comparable in meaning to the Greek word "aion" or "aionios," meaning, "age," or "ages." This word, in English, is often translated as "age, by extension perpetuity, spec. a Messianic period (present or future), age, course, eternal, for (ever) (more), ever, beginning of the world, without end," and "aionios" means "perpetual, also used of past time and future, eternal, everlasting, world (began)." The use of OLAM, therefore, does not prove that the Messiah has always existed, throughout all eternity, but rather than His origin is FROM ancient times or ages, long, long ago, beyond the ken of the human mind.

One might also point out that this verse in Micah says this individual is "FROM eternity to eternity," or "FROM everlastin to everlasting." The word "from" is a preposition meaning "away out of," or "beginning at that certain point." In other words, "FROM everlasting" does not necessarily INCLUDE "everlasting." If I say I come from Seattle, Washington, it would be true even if I came from the region NEAR Seattle, or from the outer "city limits," and not from the inner city itself! If I say I come from the United States of America, it would be just as true whether I came from Topeka, Kansas, in the heartland, or if I came from San Francisco, right on the west coast, or even from Hawaii. "Eternity" can be understood as a broad expanse of "time." Therefore, to originate at any point DURING that expanse of time could fulfill the meaning of being "FROM eternity"!

The fact that the Father and Jesus Christ have the exact same titles does not prove they both come from "beyond eternity" or have both existed FOREVER, in the way we commonly think of that term. When we Christians become BORN SONS OF GOD, and enter the God Family, we, too, will INHERIT THE NAME OF OUR FATHER AND ELDER BROTHER (Eph.3:15). We, too, will become "I AM," SELF-EXISTANT EVER-LIVING BEINGS IN THE GOD FAMILY -- ELOHIM, AND YHVH. Or, as Moffatt translates it, we, too, will become "THE ETERNAL." But this cannot be used to prove that we ALWAYS existed, or were ALWAYS God!

For example, Isaiah 63:16 says "You O LORD [YHVH] are our Father; our Redeemer FROM EVERLASTING is your name." Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. This only proves, as the word "olam" itself shows, that Jesus is FROM ANCIENT TIMES, or has existed since misty antiquity, even before "time" itself as we know it was created. It does not prove that He existed as a parallel "God" with the Father for all eternity, like a "parallel line" extending into infinity.

By the way, concerningf "parallel lines," to say that parallel lines remain parallel forever to to infinity is not necessarily true. It is actually only true of "Euclidian geometry." In the

space-time continuum envisioned by Albert Einstein, who formulated the "Theory of Relativity," such a conclusion is impossible. Einstein points out that space is curved. Light rays themselves "bend" when they pass by local stars -- even though "light" has no mass and travels at 186,000 miles per second! Since scientists say space is curved, at some point far away even parallel lines would be required to "meet." That "meeting place" could be called "infinity," insofar as its relevance to our human comprehension is concerned. What is "infinity," anyway? Do we comprehend it? Can your mind really comprehend "eternity"? These concepts are about as foreign to us as light years, parallax, understanding the formation of stars clusters, nebulae, galaxies, or even the atom itself!

Christ Personified as "Wisdom"

In Proverbs 8, "Wisdom" is personified and is a type of Jesus Christ. "Wisdom" is said to have been "established FROM EVERLASTING," or "from ETERNITY" (verse 23, NIV). Does this mean "Wisdom" or Christ existed "forever," throughout eternity? Not at all! Let's take a good, careful look at Proverbs 8. Notice!

In Proverbs 8:24 we read of Wisdom saying, "When there were no depths, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH; when there were no fountains abounding with water." And verse 25 -- "Before the mountains were settled, before the hills WAS I BROUGHT FORTH" (KJV).

I believe the Jewish Tanakh makes this the plainest. Notice, beginning verse 22: Wisdom [a type of CHRIST or the LOGOS or WORD of God!] says, "THE LORD [FATHER] *CREATED ME* at the *beginning* of His course AS THE *FIRST* OF HIS WORKS OF OLD. In the distant past I WAS *FASHIONED*, at the beginning, at the ORIGIN of the earth. There was still no deep when I was BROUGHT FORTH, no springs rich in water; before [the foundations of] the mountains were sunk, before the hills I WAS *BORN*. He had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first clumps of clay. I WAS THERE when He set the heavens in place . . . When He made the heavens above firm . . . When He assigned the sea its limits . . . When He fixed the foundations of the earth, I WAS WITH HIM AS A CONFIDANT, a source of delight every day, rejoicing before Him at all times, rejoicing in His inhabited world, finding delight with mankind' (Proverbs 8:22-31).

How clear! The One who became "Christ" was *BORN* back in the "beginning"! He was literally "BROUGHT FORTH" -- He was "FASHIONED" -- He was "*CREATED*"!

God the Father, WITH WISDOM at His side (that is Christ, or the Logos -- John 1:1-3), then *CREATED THE UNIVERSE*, using Wisdom (the Logos or Christ) to create everything that exists.

The Awesome, Incredible Truth of God

How plain! How clear! How wonderful! I sincerely hope that this new information and research will help you to more fully see and understand the truth about the origin of Christ, the Logos, the Word of God. The Truth of God should not and cannot conflict with ANY

Scripture, but must harmonize with ALL relevant Scriptures, doing no violence to any. Thus the truth is not in the extreme anti-Christ theology of Anthony Buzzard and others who DENY the divinity and pre-existence of Christ; nor is it in the opposite extreme view of the Trinity doctrine, or the "Dual God" concept, sometimes called the "Binitarian" doctrine.

The truth is that God is ONE -- Hebrew Monotheism -- but that ONE is a fully united FAMILY, which began with God the Father, or Ancient of Days, and then included the Word or Logos, the two of them becoming "Elohim," the "Mighty Ones," and eventually will include ALL those born of God at the resurrection as His literal SONS, who, along with Christ, will "inherit ALL THINGS" (Heb.2:7-13; Rom.8:14-17, 19-21). As Paul the apostle wrote, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, and JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also GLORIFIED TOGETHER. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waiteth for the MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD" (Rom.8:16-19).

There is a REASON God created YOU! There is a PURPOSE for your existence! There is a DESTINY that awaits you, if you can see and comprehend it, in the KINGDOM OF GOD! No matter how much we suffer in this life, no matter how much trouble and tribulation and trials we experience, it is as NOTHING but a mere puff of wind compared to the eternal GLORY of divine SONSHIP in the Universe-RULING Kingdom of GOD!

You are called of God to become a King, and a Priest, and a Ruler and Creator -- a literal SON OF GOD, even like Jesus Christ Himself is, our Elder Brother! YOU are called to become a Universe-ruling LORD YHVH! What are you doing about your divine destiny and calling? Are you preparing yourself, overcoming, enduring trials, and growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? May God help all of you to clearly grasp your calling and comprehend the real meaning of your eternal life and SALVATION! THANK GOD for His wonderful and precious Truth!