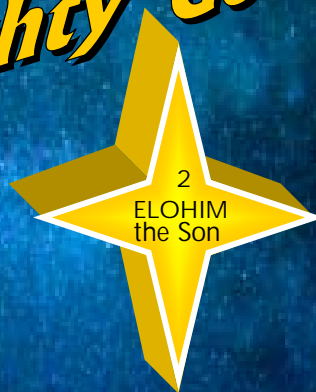


"ELOHIM"

The Almighty Godhead



"...attaining to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.."

Col. 2:2

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness (of the Godhead) should dwell..."

Col.1:19



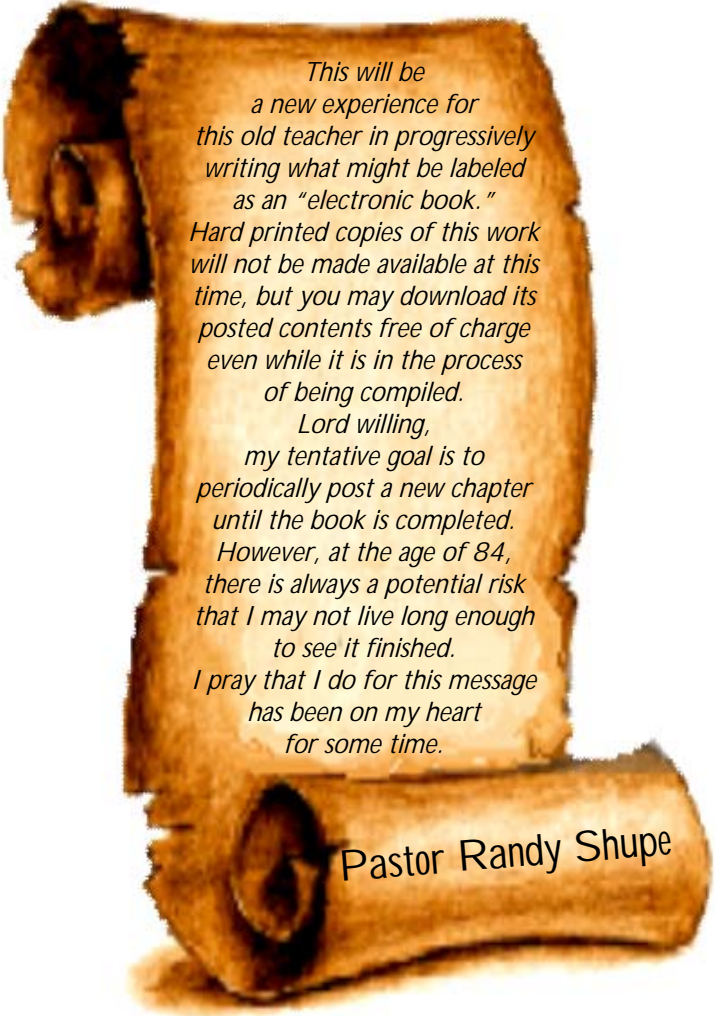
"...for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily..."

Col. 2:9

"...I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Eph.3:14,19

Pastor Randy Shupe



*This will be
a new experience for
this old teacher in progressively
writing what might be labeled
as an "electronic book."
Hard printed copies of this work
will not be made available at this
time, but you may download its
posted contents free of charge
even while it is in the process
of being compiled.*

*Lord willing,
my tentative goal is to
periodically post a new chapter
until the book is completed.*

*However, at the age of 84,
there is always a potential risk
that I may not live long enough
to see it finished.*

*I pray that I do for this message
has been on my heart
for some time.*

Pastor Randy Shupe

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Much of the reference material you will find in my book, *"Elohim, the Almighty Godhead"* are extractions from an old classic work by the Late Herb Jahn, Exegete. His book, *"Exeges Parallel Bible"*, was 17 years in the making and is greatly valued. I highly recommend for you to purchase a PDF copy of this classic study tool. I believe it will do for you what it did for me, namely, to greatly enhance your ability to comprehend and properly interpret the contents of scripture.

Pastor Randy Shupe

EXEGESES parallel BIBLE

"STILL- The only literal translation and transliteration of Scripture - EVER"

Herb Jahn Exegete

"Back in the early 1970's, Herb Jahn (a diligent student of God's word in the original languages) became burdened with the casual attitude that God's people had toward the Bible. He was especially concerned about the inaccuracy of Christian teachers and modern Bible versions when translating different Hebrew and Greek terms. In many of the popular translations and even in the 1611 King James translation, different Hebrew and Greek terms were translated the same and were said to mean the same thing. Of course there are occasional similarities in different terms of God's Word, but he found that many times there were MAJOR differences in how the terms should be translated that he could not overlook.

So he decided to do something about it. He then researched EVERY word in the Old and New Testaments to make sure they were accurate and translated according to their common usage. That process took over 15 years to complete. When the research was complete, he then ended up spending his life's savings to publish this work himself, since no Bible publisher would do it or do it right. The result is now the most accurate and literal Bible in existence.

Thousands of Believers across the world have purchased and enjoyed this remarkable Bible translation and transliteration. We thank the Lord for Herb Jahn and for his devotion to the Lord in bringing us this thoroughly accurate Bible for you and I to enjoy."

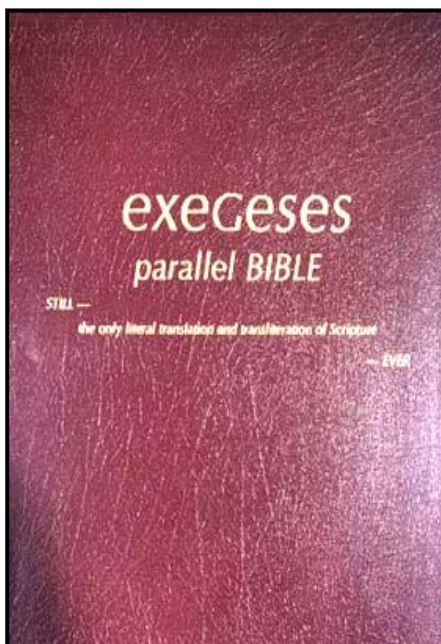
[\(https://www.exegesesbible.com/\)](https://www.exegesesbible.com/)

Like so many other classic works, you will find that the Late Herb Jahn's Exeges Parallel Bible is presently out of print after five editions, the last printed in 2001. Used copies on E-bay sell for over \$600.00. However, thankfully you can presently still purchase a PDF download of this out-of-print literary treasure from their website at:

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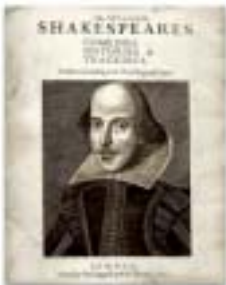
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~ CHAPTER ONE ~

"What's In a Name?"



The famous cynical quote, "What's in a name?" was penned long ago by William Shakespeare in his most famous and beloved play, "Romeo and Juliet."

Shakespeare held a philosophical belief that it did not matter what name something bore, but rather just focus upon achieving the desired end result. The moral to this philosophy Shakespeare summed up under the cute cliché:

"A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL A ROSE."
William Shakespeare

Shakespeare believed that the name itself did not contain any worth or meaning. In essence, the name it bore had absolutely no effect on the end product produced. Perhaps that dubious philosophy may work in a world of make believe acted out on a controlled theater stage, but would be a stark contrast when compared to the emphasis scripture places upon the ability of names and titles to aid in expressing faith.

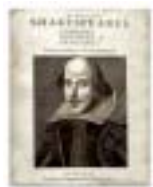
It is my growing suspicion that this Shakespearean philosophy may also hold a strong grip on the thinking of many Christians as well. We too can be guilty of allowing our faith to be concentrated solely on just achieving the end result. For instance, we can be ever desirous to be healed of a physical malady, but guilty of overlooking the importance Scripture places on the Name of the One who heals (Exodus 15:26).

Names/titles given in scripture are of the most important significance because the revelation contained within the meaning often depict levels of authority and power possessed by the individual bearing the name. The more we understand the depth of meaning behind the name revealed the greater aspect of faith can be released.

THIS IS IMPORTANT:

Throughout scripture biblical concepts of faith zero in on expressing a firm belief in "the name" revealed as the very means by which the end result is obtained.

WHICH PRINCIPLE DO YOU EMBRACE?



*"IT DOES NOT MATTER
WHAT NAME SOMETHING BEARS,
JUST FOCUS UPON
THE END RESULT
PRODUCED."*

*"IT DOES MATTER
WHAT NAME SOMETHING BEARS.
IT TAKES "FAITH IN THE NAME"
TO PRODUCE
THE END RESULT."*

IT IS FAITH IN "THE NAME" THAT HEALS

The seven examples below are a minute portion of what you will find to be a running theme throughout the scriptures. Dear Christian, we too MUST develop a firm biblical pattern of faith in God's Name:

1

"...AND HIS NAME, THROUGH FAITH IN HIS NAME, HAS MADE THIS MAN STRONG, WHOM YOU SEE AND KNOW. YES, THE FAITH WHICH COMES THROUGH HIM HAS GIVEN HIM THIS PERFECT SOUNDNESS IN THE PRESENCE OF YOU ALL.."

Acts 3:16

2

"LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU ALL, AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, THAT BY THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH...
...THERE IS NO SALVATION IN ANY OTHER,
FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED."

Acts 4:10-12

3

"...GOD ALSO HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER."

Phil 2:9-11

4

"...HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED; BUT HE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD."

John 3:16-18

5

" AND THESE SIGNS WILL FOLLOW THOSE WHO BELIEVE:
IN MY NAME THEY WILL CAST OUT DEMONS;
THEY WILL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES;
THEY WILL TAKE UP SERPENTS;
AND IF THEY DRINK ANYTHING DEADLY,
IT WILL BY NO MEANS HURT THEM;
THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY WILL RECOVER."

Mark 16:17-18

6

" IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SICK? LET HIM CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH, AND LET THEM PRAY OVER HIM, ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH WILL SAVE THE SICK, AND THE LORD WILL RAISE HIM UP."

James 5:14-15

7

"MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO HE WILL DO ALSO...
AND WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, THAT I WILL DO...
IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT."

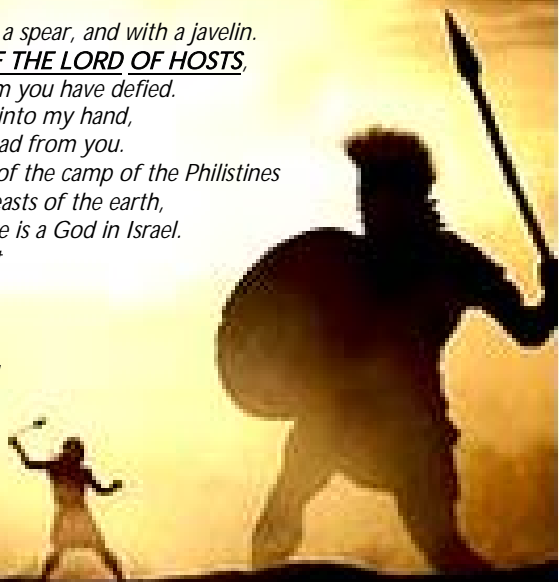
John 14:12-14

Names and titles are very significant in scripture. When God called a man to a place of ministry, often He would change the name of the individual to reveal the calling placed upon him. "Abram" became "Abraham" (father of many nations). It was prophesied over infant Jesus that He should bear the name "Emmanuel" because it meant "God with us" (Matt.1:21-22) . Names/titles contain seeds of faith ready to be sown.

One of my all-time favorite faith stories is the verbal exchange between David and Goliath. We all know the end result-David slew the giant. However, the weapon he used was not merely a stone to the forehead from David's sling, but rather victory was sealed through David's bold proclamation of faith in the name of the Lord:

*"Then David said to the Philistine,
"You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin.
But I come to you in **THE NAME OF THE LORD OF HOSTS**,
the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
This day **THE LORD** will deliver you into my hand,
and I will strike you and take your head from you.
And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines
to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth,
that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.
Then all this assembly shall know that
THE LORD does not save
with sword and spear;
for the battle is **THE LORD'S**,
and He will give you into our hands."*

1 Samuel 17:45-47



David's bold declaration reminds me of the apostle Paul's admonition pertaining to what are the weapons of the Christian's warfare against the strongholds of the enemy:



*"...FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH (PHYSICAL),
WE DO NOT WAR
ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.
FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE
ARE NOT CARNAL (PHYSICAL)
BUT **MIGHTY IN GOD**
FOR PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS..."*

2 Cor 10:3-5

Goliath's weapons were very carnal (physical) ones. They consisted of one very, very big sword, spear, and javelin in the hands of a ten-foot giant! (Intimidating weapons, to say the least!) However, David's spiritual weapon of the name of the Lord was greater being mighty in God, a faith solely dependent upon the might behind

*"**THE NAME OF THE LORD OF HOSTS.**"*

It is not only the outworking of faith like David's that is produced by acknowledging the name (the Lord) but also should produce supreme obedience in the life of those who claim to be under its authority. Jesus confronted His disciples with this sober charge:



**"BUT WHY
DO YOU CALL ME
'LORD, LORD,'
AND
NOT DO
THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?"**
Luke 6:46



May I remind you again of our opening thought, "What's in a name?" For instance, when the name being applied to God is that of Lord we must be ever-mindful of what is contained in the meaning of the name:

LORD (Gr. KURIOS)- "SUPREME IN AUTHORITY, LIFE-CONTROLLER, MASTER OF ALL..."

If His disciples call Him, "Lord, Lord", then they must understand what that title requires of them. If He is Lord, then He is "supreme in authority" over them, He is their "life-controller", He is the "master of all" over those who follow Him.

Jesus is called Lord 673 times in the New Testament! Compare that statistic to another title Jesus bears, that of "Savior." Jesus is only identified 27 times in the same New Testament as Savior. Why then, we must ask, do we tend to gravitate toward thinking of Jesus primarily as our Savior instead of our Lord? Are we not guilty of theologically majoring in minors and minoring in majors as to what should be the proper emphasis scripture places on defining who is Jesus Christ?

Is it sufficient to just call Him Savior, but not also to call Him Lord?

The answer to this imbalance lies in what emphasis we are being taught by men rather than what the Word itself reveals. If I see Jesus addressed as Lord 673 times in the New Testament compared to only 27 times identified as Savior, I must conclude that His Lordship must be a higher priority than the fact that He is my Savior. Read carefully these passages of scripture that present God's plan of salvation and you will see that the Lordship of Jesus Christ is a woven integral part of that salvation message. Here are four examples:

"...THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH **THE LORD JESUS**
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WILL BE SAVED...

"...FOR **THE SAME LORD** OVER ALL IS RICH TO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIM.
FOR "WHOEVER CALLS ON **THE NAME OF THE LORD** SHALL BE SAVED." Rom. 10:9

"...BELIEVE ON **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED..." Acts 16:31

"...WE ALSO EAGERLY WAIT FOR **THE SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**..." Phil 3:20-21

"PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE COMMANDMENT OF
GOD OUR SAVIOR AND **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, OUR HOPE..." 1 Tim 1:1

Clearly, the One declared to be Savior is also stated to be Lord over our lives.

Previously we saw how important it was for David to express faith in the name the Lord of Hosts. Let us look to another Old Testament example as to the importance of the Name "the Lord" as it pertains to obedience/disobedience.

This time we will examine Pharaoh of Egypt as a negative example of a person who lacked understanding of the one whose name is called the Lord:



**"AND PHARAOH SAID,
"WHO IS THE LORD,
THAT I SHOULD
OBEY HIS VOICE?
...I DO NOT KNOW
THE LORD..."**

Ex.5:2

Pharaoh of Egypt did not obey the voice of the Lord and he states clearly the reason why he did not do so:

**"WHO IS THE LORD THAT I SHOULD OBEY HIS VOICE?
...I DO NOT KNOW THE LORD..."**

I believe Pharaoh's statement contains the same underlying reason that some of Jesus' followers did not obey Him either. They called Him "Lord, Lord" but did not have a clue what that really implied. They knew Him as their Savior from sin, but not as Lord of their life in its fullest meaning of the name of the Lord:

LORD (KURIOS)- "SUPREME IN AUTHORITY, LIFE-CONTROLLER, MASTER OF ALL..."

Instead of properly stressing the fact that it is the Lord ("supreme in authority, life-controller, Master of all") over the lives of those called to follow Him, the modern-day version of the gospel is repackaged in a non-confrontational theme under the more palatable banner "God has a wonderful plan for your life." Listen friend: The Almighty's plan is for Him to become the Lord of your life!

Instead of placing a proper emphasis upon what you need to give up in order for Christ to become Lord of your life, it is rather camouflaged as a beneficial package of what God is going to bring into your life once you simply receive Him as Savior. We are told emphatically that He is going to heal your marriage, heal your diseases, increase your finances, prosper you, provide for you, protect you, etc. Friend, that is not what it means to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! God may indeed do some of those wonderful healing things for you as you learn to walk with Him, but that is not the gospel message the Lord Jesus presented.

The Lordship of Jesus Christ demands that the believer embrace the call to forsake living a self-centered, self-serving way of life. It is this lack of the evidence of a new life of obedience that Jesus addresses in some of His disciples who tritely continued to called Him "Lord, Lord" but were not obeying His commands:

**"NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, 'LORD, LORD,'
SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN...
...I WILL DECLARE TO THEM, 'I NEVER KNEW YOU;
DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!'"** Matt. 7:21-23



HOW IMPORTANT IS THE NAME, "THE LORD"?



In these two great prophetic passages from Isaiah we are given the name of God as "the Lord."

Isaiah also identifies what is the delegated authority (subtitles) given to the one bearing that name.

First of all, I want to convey to you dear reader, the great significance and impact these two passages from Isaiah have had on me as a teacher of God's Word. Over the past fifty years of my ministry I have always given a place of great preeminence to what is portrayed above from the Book of Isaiah.

For instance, this is a picture of a wall in our old church building upon which I displayed the content of Isaiah 33:22. I kept this visual there for nearly forty years that we occupied that old building. I wanted it to always be a constant reminder to the people (and to myself) of what is the biblical meaning of the title of Jesus Christ as, the Lord.



Below is a recent snapshot of the main wall in my present study located adjacent to our public meeting room in our new location. Although we downsized our building, I increased the size of this visual display of Isaiah 33:22 to encompass a full wall. The truth it displays just gets bigger and bigger in the eyes of this old teacher. Like the original in our old building, I placed this new larger display also to serve as a constant visual reminder to myself and as well as to all those in our congregation as to what the saying "the Lord" really conveys:



Our theme quest in this opening Chapter is to establish "What's in a name?"
Isaiah the prophet has stated clearly for us,

"I am THE LORD, that is MY NAME."
Isa. 42:8

God sent Moses to Pharaoh with a simple command from the Lord
to "Let My people go" (Ex. 9:1).

The response of Pharaoh was quite profound:



**"AND PHARAOH SAID,
"WHO IS THE LORD,
THAT I SHOULD
OBEY HIS VOICE?
...I DO NOT KNOW
THE LORD..."**

Ex. 5:2

As professing followers of the Lord Jesus Christ,
we too must ask ourselves the same question Pharaoh posed.

Pharaoh did not know the Lord so he did not obey His voice, but rather very defiantly proclaimed, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice? I do not know the Lord." What did Pharaoh lack? He lacked knowledge of the One whose Name is called "the Lord."

In these two passages from Isaiah we are not only given the name of our God as being the Lord, but we have the added illumination from Isaiah of four subtitles that add to the depth of meaning of the Name of "the Lord."



To be able to know the Lord we need only to examine the meaning of the four subtitles (names) that Isaiah assigns to the Name "the Lord." These four topics become a measuring stick for every Christian to determine the degree that we too know the Lord. If you truly know the Lord you will obey Him. To practice a life of willful disobedience like Pharaoh is proof-positive that you also do not know the Lord!

"WHO IS THE LORD THAT I SHOULD OBEY HIS VOICE?"



I don't want us to get sidetracked with over elaboration of these four topics, but it is essential that we establish that these scriptures from Isaiah add greatly to our ability in defining, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?"

This passage from Isaiah reads from the top down. However, this is not how it works out in the life of the believer.



Actually, this passage works from the bottom to the top because our first encounter with the Lord takes place by the act of salvation. We first encounter the Lord when we embrace the call to be saved by Him.

Let us briefly comment on each of these four topics as they drive home the point, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice."

1. THE LORD is the one who SAVES US:

You must not divorce the aspect of the Lordship of Jesus Christ from the fact that He is our Savior. It is like the old secular song about love and marriage going together like a horse and carriage—you can't have one without the other. If you understand that concept then you can see why all the passages about salvation contain references to the Lord Jesus rather than the isolated truth that He is our Savior. Truly, you can't have one without the other. Hear this clearly: It is the Lord who saves us:

"...THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED...
FOR "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."
Rom. 10:9

2. THE LORD is the one who is OUR KING:

Paul ties the act of salvation to being simultaneously delivered out of the power of darkness and immediately transferred into the kingdom of God's Son:

“...GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER
WHO HAS QUALIFIED US TO BE PARTAKERS OF
THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN THE LIGHT.
HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS
AND
TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON
OF HIS LOVE,
IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.”

Col. 1:12-14

So then, it is the Lord (“supreme in authority, life-controller, Master of all”) who saves us by forgiving our sins. We need to hear that carefully. It isn't just Jesus our Savior who saves us, but it is the Lord who saves us, and He does so with a purpose. The Lord saves us in order that we can now meet Him as King Jesus.

Jesus has a kingdom functioning under His authority into which we are now placed. This kingdom does not exist just in eternity, but right now by the act of salvation we enter into living a new life in a new kingdom. The Lord who saves us has now become the Lord who is King over His Kingdom.

However, I must stress that there is a mystery surrounding the Kingdom of God. Jesus describes His present kingdom as a spiritual one that abides within the heart of His people:

“NOW WHEN HE WAS ASKED BY THE PHARISEES WHEN
THE KINGDOM OF GOD WOULD COME,
HE ANSWERED THEM AND SAID,
“THE KINGDOM OF GOD DOES NOT COME WITH OBSERVATION;
NOR WILL THEY SAY, 'SEE HERE!' OR 'SEE THERE!'
FOR INDEED,
THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.”

Luke 17:20-21

Rather than the erroneous pursuit of our American Puritan forefathers who sought to create a literal “city on a hill” for all the world to see and obey, God's present Kingdom on earth can exist any place where His people are found. This Kingdom can exist in the midst of oppressive dictatorships or under false religious kingdoms such as the Muslim oppressive powers we see presently on earth.

The true Kingdom of God can even exist in the midst of a so-called “Christian” kingdom such as America's earth-minded cherished concept of “One nation under God” and “In God we trust.” None of these things constitute the real Kingdom of God as proclaimed in the detailed teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ as found in Matthew Chapters Five through Seven. These three chapters should be thoroughly digested by every follower of Christ!

3. THE LORD is the one who is OUR LAWGIVER:

Obviously every king has a kingdom over which he rules. How does he rule? By means of instituting His governing laws. The Lord Jesus becomes the Lawgiver to every follower of Christ. Hear this:

His laws are designed to govern **His people** within **His kingdom!**

But you may think "wait a minute!

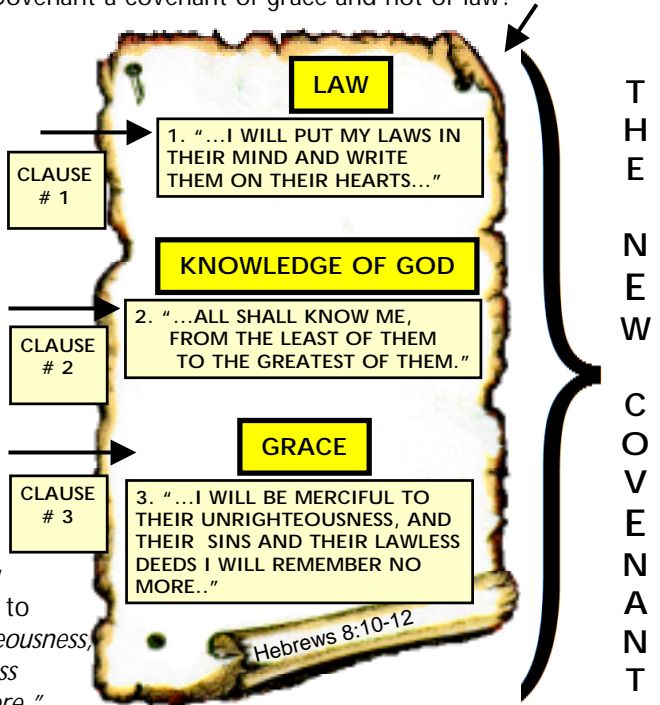
Is not the New Covenant a covenant of grace and not of law?"

Not according to what is written in the Word of God.

Little known is the fact that there are three terms specified in the New Covenant. However, we've only been taught one term namely, "grace." The word translated as covenant ("b'rith") means "to bind." An old hymn is entitled "blessed be the tie that binds." However, for the most part, God's people have only been taught one-third of that binding agreement.

Namely, to hold quite firmly to the clause that binds God to "be merciful to their unrighteousness, and...their sins and their lawless deeds...(to) remember no more."

Heb. 8:12



Theologically, we have condensed this concept to the term, "grace." However, the covenant places an equally binding obligation upon the people of God to allow Him to "...put His laws in their mind and write them on their hearts..." (Heb.8:10). This concept can be condensed to the term "law." The needful question to be answered is: Can we just pick out grace, but then discard the law term of the covenant? (2 Tim.2:15). If God's people do not diligently search out the biblical balance between the subjects of law vs. grace, there is going to be a multitude of saints who will be ashamed when God Himself confronts them in eternity with the remainder of the contents of the New Covenant! It is not a matter of law or grace but rather law and grace! Consider that Jesus makes a vivid and lengthy comparison between Old Testament Law and New Testament Law in His dissertation found in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. You must read the continuity of these chapters for it is a vivid depiction of Jesus as our King describing Himself now as our Lawgiver. Jesus opens various topics with this repeated saying, "You have heard that it was said...but I say unto you" (see Matt. 5:27,31,33,38,43) In these chapters Jesus compares O. T. Law to His N. T. Law designed to govern the subjects of His new Kingdom.

If you follow His many vivid comparisons listed there, you will see that His New Testament Laws are more demanding than what was contained in the Old! He is certainly not supporting the false idea that New Testament grace has replaced all of God's Law. Yes, the Old Mosaic Law under Moses is done away with, but it is replaced by a new set of Laws from King Jesus, "our Lawgiver." Law does not save us, but rather is designed to sanctify us as a saved people living righteously in a different kingdom!

4. THE LORD is the one who is OUR JUDGE:

Isaiah gives us this fourth and final depiction of who is the Lord in the life of a believer. This time the Lord is identified as being our Judge. Each one of us, as a follower of Christ, has an eternal date with Christ the Lord in His role as our Judge. Let us note that this is not a judgment for our sins prior to receiving Christ for He has already received that judgment on our behalf by means of the exchange performed at the Cross. Paul reminds us of the exchange that took place:

**"FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US,
THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM."**

2 Cor. 5:21

In addressing the Judgment Seat of Christ below, Paul does not speak of a judgment of sin unto condemnation, but rather a judgment unto rewards to be received by the faithful believer. Paul, about to be beheaded, uses himself as an example of a judgment unto reward in saying:

**"FOR I AM ALREADY BEING POURED OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING,
AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND.
I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.**

**FINALLY, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME
THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE,
WILL GIVE TO ME ON THAT DAY,
AND NOT TO ME ONLY BUT ALSO TO
ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING."**

2 Tim. 4:6-8



MOST IMPORTANT POINT TO KEEP IN MIND

The Lord will sit as the Righteous Judge evaluating to what degree each of us has embraced the Lordship of Christ in our lives. Has the Lord who saved us also become our King? Has the Lord become our Lawgiver? Have we allowed Kingdom Laws to govern our lives on earth? Have we been faithful submissive servants to the King and His Kingdom Laws? These are the areas of judgment that Christ the Lord will use to measure the level of our faithfulness on earth. Shall we qualify in all the needful areas to hear our Lord on Judgment Day say to us:

**"WELL DONE,
GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT;
YOU WERE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS,
I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS.
ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD."**

Matt 25:21-22



PAUL'S VIEW OF JUDGMENT, IS IT YOURS?

"THEREFORE WE MAKE IT OUR AIM,
WHETHER PRESENT OR ABSENT, TO BE WELL PLEASING TO HIM.
FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST,
THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN THE BODY,
ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE,
WHETHER GOOD OR BAD."

2 Cor. 5:9-11

"FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

FOR IT IS WRITTEN:

"AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD."

SO THEN EACH OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT
OF HIMSELF TO GOD."

Rom. 14:10-13

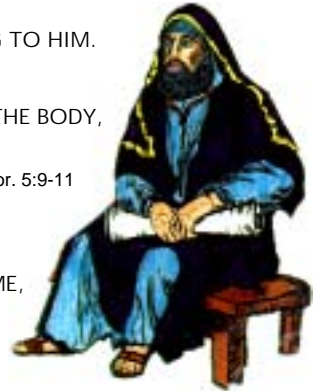
"AND THERE IS NO CREATURE HIDDEN FROM HIS SIGHT,
BUT ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPEN TO THE EYES OF HIM
TO WHOM WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT."

Heb. 4:3

"...LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER:
FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

FOR GOD WILL BRING EVERY WORK INTO JUDGMENT,
INCLUDING EVERY SECRET THING, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL."

Solomon in Eccl. 12:12-14



Considering the repetitious theme of scripture above, one can easily see that there is heavy support for the concept of the Lord also being plainly presented as our Judge. Having become our Savior, our King and our Lawgiver on earth as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, it should not surprise us that He is now going to assume the role in eternity as our Judge. What is it that He will judge? It is the quality of life that we have lived as Christians. That life should be measurable.

1. QUESTION: DO I KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS MY *SAVIOR* ?

The answer is yes if you can look back and enumerate the various changes He has brought into your life since you accepted Him. Lordship is measured by how much we give over to Him, not by how much we receive from Him. Lordship produces measurable repentance in the life of the born-again sinner. We immediately begin to bring forth "fruits worthy of repentance" (Acts 26:20). Lordship produces a tangible life filled with evidence of "diligence, clearing of yourselves, indignation against sin, Godly fear, vehement desire, zeal, vindication (making things right)" (2 Cor. 7:11).

2. QUESTION: DO I KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS MY *KING* ?

The answer is yes if you truly live like you have been "translated out of the power of darkness and into the Kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col.1:13). The answer is yes if you are no longer a "friend of the world" (Jam. 4:4). The answer is yes if you are "transformed rather than conformed" (Rom. 12:2). The answer is yes if you confess to be "a stranger and pilgrim on earth" (Heb. 11:13). The answer is yes if we plainly declare that "Here we have no continuing city for we seek the one that is to come" (Heb.13:14). The answer is yes if we declare that "our citizenship is in Heaven, from whom we eagerly wait for the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). The answer is yes if we confess as did Jesus, "My Kingdom is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36).

3. QUESTION: DO I KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS MY LAWGIVER ?

The answer is yes if you embrace the beatitudes Jesus enumerates in Matthew 5-7 of being poor in spirit, mourning, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, merciful to others, pure in heart, a peacemaker in times of trouble. The answer is yes if you do not hate your enemies, you do not commit adultery in your heart, if your yes remains yes and your no remains no. The answer is yes if you turn the other cheek, even if they sue you. The answer is yes if you love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you. The answer is yes if you seek first the Kingdom of God, lay up treasures in heaven, refuse to serve two masters, avoid judging others from a position of hypocrisy, do not bear false witness, do not take oaths and obey the golden rule of treating others exactly as you desire to be treated. All these things are the laws of the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5,6,7)

4. QUESTION: DO I KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS MY JUDGE ?

The answer is not yet if you are at this very moment reading this page. Only those who have died in Christ can answer in the affirmative. This is because the scripture states when the judgment of the believer actually takes place:

"AND AS IT IS APPOINTED FOR MEN TO DIE ONCE,
BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT..."

Heb 9:27-28

According to the apostle Paul's writings, we can see that he actively cultivated his future day in court with the Lord Jesus Christ, **THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE:**

"THEREFORE WE MAKE IT OUR AIM,
WHETHER PRESENT OR ABSENT, TO BE WELL PLEASING TO HIM.
FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST,
THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN THE BODY,
ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE,
WHETHER GOOD OR BAD."

2 Cor 5:9-11



"...THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, BOTH OF THE JUST AND THE UNJUST.
THIS BEING SO, I MYSELF ALWAYS STRIVE TO HAVE
A CONSCIENCE WITHOUT OFFENSE TOWARD GOD AND MEN."

Acts 24:15-16

"FOR I AM ALREADY BEING Poured OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING,
AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND.
I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.

FINALLY, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME
THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

WHICH

THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE,
WILL GIVE TO ME ON THAT DAY,
AND NOT TO ME ONLY BUT ALSO TO
ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING."

2 Tim 4:6-8

“WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

*“EVERY NAME OR TITLE OF GOD
REVEALS SOME ATTRIBUTE OF THE DIVINE CHARACTER OF GOD.
IN STUDYING GOD’S WORD, WE LEARN NEW FACTS ABOUT GOD’S NATURE
WITH EACH NEW NAME BY WHICH HE REVEALS HIMSELF.
IN OTHER WORDS, GOD NAMES HIMSELF WHAT HE IS!”*

(page 125 Institutes of Biblical Law, R. J. Rushdooney)

We have only briefly introduced one additional name of God, which is the Divine Personage called, the Lord. In just placing the title, the Lord before the name God we are launched into the realm of being able to better define who is the personage we call “God.” Study His title as the Lord God and your understanding of His Divine character and nature will greatly increase.

(LORD (Gr. KURIOS)- “SUPREME IN AUTHORITY, LIFE-CONTROLLER, MASTER OF ALL...”)

The Lord is our “Savior, King, Lawgiver and Judge” (Isa. 33:22). Study each of these four categories in scripture and you will greatly enhance your knowledge of the One called, the Lord. For the further point of illustration, just consider the title “Father” when it is found placed in front of the single word “God”, and it will open new realms of understanding of the Divine personage of God. Jesus Himself spoke of God His Father in the gospel of John 129 times within just 21 Chapters! It is the additional descriptive words such as “Father God”, “Lord God”, or “Almighty God” that increases our revelation and depth of understanding of the one we generically label just as “God.” In the New Testament the Greek word translated 1,326 times as God is “Theos.” It is the word from which we derive the term “Theology”-the study of God. However, there is really nothing revelational about “God” found in its meaning:

Strong's Greek: 2316. θεός (theos) – God, a god

Original Word: θεός, οἱ, ὁ. Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine; Noun, Masculine. Transliteration: theos. Phonetic Spelling: (teh'-os) Definition: God, a god. Usage: (a) God, (b) a god,...

“**GOD**” The earliest written form of the **Germanic** word god comes from the 6th century Christian Codex Argenteus. The English word itself is derived from the Proto-Germanic *

Sadly, the specific Hebrew names of O.T. Scripture are NOT translated properly in any of our English versions including the King James Version. Rather than “God” being a direct translation of O.T. Scripture it is a mere substitution. For instance, the singular English Name, “God” is freely substituted for the actual plural Hebrew Name “Elohim.” (2,197 times!) There is zero illumination in substituting the generic English word “God” in place of the specific Hebrew Name, “Elohim.”

Ever since I first learned of the Bible translators purposeful substitution of specific Hebrew-based Names like “Elohim” with a man-made generic substitution such as “God”, I have preferred to use a more illuminating Name like “the Almighty.” At least I am more biblically correct as the Hebrew Name “El” means “the Almighty.” The Name “God” is a meaningless generic substitute for His actual recorded Hebrew Name. “God” is generic where “The Almighty” is specific. Point being, using proper names are often of great illumination and importance.

This too is an important fact:

THE ENEMY OF TRUTH IS TRADITION

At this point I feel the need to inject a warning pertaining to the inherent danger of man-made traditions being substituted for God's truth.

"THE TORAH"

(WRITTEN WORD OF GOD)



TRUTH

"SETS YOU FREE"

(John 8:32)

"SETS YOU APART"

(John 17:17)



"THE TALMUD"

(ORAL TRADITION OF MEN)



TRADITION

"NULLIFIES TRUTH"

(Mark 7:3-13)

"CHEATS YOU"

(Col. 2:8)

**"...IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN."**

FOR LAYING ASIDE THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,

YOU HOLD THE TRADITION OF MEN...

ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,

THAT YOU MAY **KEEP YOUR TRADITION...**

MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION

WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN."

Mark 7:3-13

As the above scriptures depict, doctrine is systematically being replaced by the corrupting power of the leaven of tradition. Left alone, tradition will indeed leaven the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:7)

Consider this prophetic parable in which Jesus revealed that what was initially given to mankind would become totally corrupted by leaven being sown into it:

As history will attest, all three of these religions began with the inspired Word, but have been infiltrated over time by the corrupting power of the leaven of tradition.

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE
LEAVEN
WHICH A WOMAN HID IN THREE MEASURES OF MEAL
TILL IT WAS **ALL**
LEAVENED."
Matt. 13:33

- 1) **JUDAISM**
(HAS BEEN TOTALLY LEAVENED BY TRADITION...)
- 2) **CATHOLICISM**
(HAS BEEN TOTALLY LEAVENED BY TRADITION...)
- 3) **PROTESTANTISM** (Christianity)
(IS PRESENTLY BEING LEAVENED BY TRADITION...)

THE ENEMY OF TRUTH IS TRADITION

Consider below this quotation pertaining to the origin of the Rabbinical practice of substitution of the name the Lord (Adonai) for the forbidden sacred name of I AM. It is somewhat difficult to digest, but ponder it carefully as it depicts a prime example of man's tradition replacing God's truth. It is called "the Tetragrammaton":

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The Hebrew word "יהוה" (Lord) is used as a name for the God of Israel nearly seven thousand times in the Hebrew Bible! Theologians call it the tetragrammaton...the meaning of the tetragrammaton is in the third chapter of the Book of Exodus:

*"Then Moses said to God, Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, What is His name? what shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, **I AM** who **I AM** (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה). And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, **I AM** (אֶהְיֶה) has sent me to you. Moreover God said to Moses, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: **THE LORD** (יהוה)...has sent me to you. This is My name forever..."*

Exodus 3:13-15

*Here, as in most English versions, we find יהוה represented by the English word "Lord." But this is not a translation of יהוה (Lord), it is a kind of substitution. In this **the English versions are following an ancient tradition**, which was also observed by the writers of the New Testament. Long before the birth of Christ it had become customary among Jews to avoid pronouncing the sacred Name by substituting אֲדֹנָי (Adonai, meaning "Lord") for יהוה when the Hebrew text was read aloud, ..."*

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/tetragrammaton.html>

the
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Even in our English translations of the Old Testament there is a wide substitution of the Hebrew word for the Name, "I AM" with the phrase, "the Lord." Apart from using a good interlinear or exegeses bible translation (see page 3), you cannot identify in our modern English translations where the phrase "I AM" has been replaced by "the Lord."

You may not know it, but our English Bible translations are still under the strong influence of cherished traditions handed-down by ancient Rabbinical Judaism. Just read the introductory pages in your personal English translation pertaining to who the Hebrew scholars were. Many have their roots in Rabbinical Judaism. They are among the selected experts that are consulted by those printing our English bibles! When it comes to His Names cherished tradition has replaced truth! It is the power of handed-down Rabbinical tradition that has fearfully substituted the Hebrew word, "LORD" for revered Hebrew names such as "I AM", considered "too Holy" to be spoken or written! God becomes "G-d" and Lord becomes "L-rd." Just too Holy to be uttered! Listen: The Almighty wants His names to be spoken verbally out loud, worshipped out loud and to be written just as initially given by Him! Please, no man-made substitutes permitted!

Let us consider:

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NAME "I AM" IN SCRIPTURE:

The Almighty is defined for us in the New Testament, not just by the single limited Greek name of "Theos" (God), but also by all the other specific names/titles that Jesus claimed for Himself. Here are 12 of those various names/titles that He claimed that describe different aspects who He is:



"I am THE BREAD OF LIFE" John 6:31
"I am THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" John 8:12
"I am THE DOOR..." John 10:7
"I am THE GOOD SHEPHERD..." John 10:11
"I am THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE..." John 11:25
"I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE..." John 14:26
"I am THE TRUE VINE..." John 15:1
"I am HE..." John 18:6
"I am JESUS OF NAZARETH..." John 18:6
"I am ALPHA AND OMEGA..." Rev. 1:11
"I am THE FIRST AND THE LAST..." Rev. 1:17
"I am THE ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID..." Rev. 22:16

Do you realize how much knowledge of the Almighty is contained within the confines of these twelve titles of Jesus? Can you see that to study each topic in depth how much your knowledge of God would increase? What does it take? It requires considering the specific names and titles of God as stated in scripture! There is revelation contained in His various names and titles.

Let me now change the above displayed chart with a different emphasis that will give you a NEW revelation of Jesus claiming to be "I AM." I point you to how each of these 12 names/titles of Jesus begin purposely with the words, I AM:



"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE" John 6:31
"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" John 8:12
"I AM THE DOOR..." John 10:7
"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD..." John 10:11
"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE..." John 11:25
"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE..." John 14:26
"I AM THE TRUE VINE..." John 15:1
"I AM HE..." John 18:6
"I AM JESUS OF NAZARETH..." John 18:6
"I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA..." Rev. 1:11
"I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST..." Rev. 1:17
"I AM THE ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID..." Rev. 22:16

It is not mere happenstance that Jesus prefaces all twelve of His titles above with the words I AM. In the Hebrew scriptures I AM is the most revered and solemn name for the Almighty found in the Old Testament! ("HYH"—the eternal "I AM.") However, since the Second A.D., this Name, I AM (as well as several others), were forbidden by Rabbinical Judaism's rules of handed-down tradition to even be spoken out loud. When this Name, I AM approached being vocalized it was always substituted with another name of the Almighty, that of the Lord (Adonai) or the substitute name, HaShem which just means the Name.

JESUS' CLAIM OF BEING DIVINE

In addition to the list of the twelve declarations Jesus made of Himself prefaced with the claim of being, **I AM**, we also find this unique recorded confrontation He had with the Jewish Pharisees in which He **boldly** claimed the revered Old Testament sacred Hebrew name of **I AM** as being His own:

"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"
"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"
"I AM THE DOOR..."
"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD..
"I AM THE RESURRECTION, THE LIFE..
"I AM THE WAY, TRUTH, LIFE..."
"I AM THE TRUE VINE..."
"I AM HE...
"I AM JESUS OF NAZARETH..."
"I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA..."
"I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST..."
"I AM THE ROOT, OFFSPRING OF DAVID"



"YOUR FATHER ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY, AND HE SAW IT AND WAS GLAD." THEN THE JEWS SAID TO HIM, "YOU ARE NOT YET 50 YEARS OLD, AND HAVE YOU SEEN ABRAHAM?" JESUS SAID TO THEM, 'MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, **I AM.**' THEN THEY TOOK UP STONES TO THROW AT HIM..."
John 8:56-59

In this account the Pharisees certainly understood what Jesus was claiming for Himself, for immediately they "took up stones to throw at Him." The application of the name **I AM** to Himself was a bold declaration that He was indeed making Himself to be deity with the Almighty. Just two chapters later the Jews would again take up stones against Jesus' spoken claims of deity along with the Almighty:

"...I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE.' THEN THE JEWS TOOK UP STONES AGAIN TO STONE HIM. JESUS ANSWERED THEM, "MANY GOOD WORKS I HAVE SHOWN YOU FROM MY FATHER. FOR WHICH OF THOSE WORKS DO YOU STONE ME?"
THE JEWS ANSWERED HIM, SAYING,
"FOR A GOOD WORK WE DO NOT STONE YOU, BUT FOR BLASPHEMY, AND BECAUSE YOU, BEING A MAN, **MAKE YOURSELF GOD.**" John 10:30-33

The question we must ask is whether we want to be guided by handed-down, man-made tradition or will we get our direction solely from biblical truth expressed in His Word? Consider this article based solely on cherished tradition rather than the stated revelation found in the Word of God. Notice how the article opens:

"JEWISH TRADITION discusses seven especially holy names of G-d that cannot be erased and must be written with special concentration. Due to the holiness of these names, we restrict their use to prayer only.

Outside of a liturgical context, we may read those names as simply *Hashem*—meaning "the name." Or we substitute certain sounds to alter the pronunciation of a name, such as replacing the 'h' with a 'k' in names of G-d such as 'kel' and 'elokim'. https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/817362/jewish/The-Kabbalah-of-Divine-Names.htm

What?

We should purposely misspell words of sacred scripture?
We should purposely mispronounce words by changing certain letters lest we become in danger of breaking the 3rd commandment, "do not take the Name of the Lord in vain"?



Such sanctimonious religious zeal reminds me of Paul's warning about the misdirected zeal of the Jewish leaders in his day:

"BRETHREN, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL IS THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED.
FOR I BEAR THEM WITNESS THAT

THEY HAVE A ZEAL FOR GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.

FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS,
HAVE NOT SUBMITTED TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD."

Rom. 10:1-4

"YOU SHALL NOT
ADD TO THE WORD
WHICH I COMMAND YOU,
NOR TAKE FROM IT,
THAT YOU MAY KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS
OF THE LORD YOUR GOD WHICH I COMMAND YOU."

Deut. 4:2-3

"ALL TOO WELL YOU
REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION...
MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT
THROUGH YOUR TRADITION
WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN."

Mark 7:9-13



Paul



Moses



Jesus

Man has always had a tendency to add to God's Word. Consider the first account:

"...AND THE WOMAN SAID TO THE SERPENT, "WE MAY EAT THE FRUIT OF THE TREES OF THE GARDEN; BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, GOD HAS SAID, 'YOU SHALL NOT EAT IT, NOR SHALL YOU TOUCH IT, LEST YOU DIE.'" Gen. 3:1-3

The last statement above did not originate from the Creator's mouth but from His creation, mankind. Now we have instituted a rule, a regulation of self-righteousness created by mankind to make him/her appear outwardly more holy. What did Eve do? She added to the Word, she improved on what the Almighty had said was sufficient.

Hear this well: What began with Eve in the Garden is still going on today. The Almighty records in His Word literal names for Himself that were revealed in order for mankind to know Him more fully through those names/titles.

The Late Herb Jahn, an excellent Exegete of the scriptures, in his *Exegeses Parallel Bible*, made this statement regarding the widespread tradition of Rabbinic-based scholars steeped in man-made traditions freely substituting other names for the Almighty because, according to their long-standing traditions, those sacred names are just "too holy" to be pronounced by mere man:

"... Elohim the Father first revealed His **name** to Mosheh (Moses) as **HYH** – the eternal **I AM**. ... However, Most Versions (of the Bible) often render the **name Yah Veh** incorrectly with the **title "LORD"** – all capital letters. This is a caving in to the traditions of certain Hebrews who said His name was too holy to pronounce."
In most Versions, the **name Yah Veh** is also mistranslated with the title "**Lord**" throughout the New Covenant."



"PRAISE THE LORD!
PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD;
 PRAISE HIM, O YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD!
 YOU WHO STAND IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD,
 IN THE COURTS OF THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD,
 PRAISE THE LORD, FOR THE LORD IS GOOD;
SING PRAISES TO HIS NAME,
 FOR IT IS PLEASANT."

Ps. 135:1-3



The above is a demonstration of TRUTH. What is below is mere TRADITION.
 What is stated above depicts acceptable acts of holiness and reverence for the Almighty's Name that are quite different from the strict man-made regulations of handed-down traditions such as:

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1. A name never to be spoken out loud.
2. A name never to be written by man.
3. A name never to be erased by man.
4. A name always to be substituted with generic but authorized names for the Almighty that are to be spoken in place of those forbidden to be verbalized.
5. A name to be purposely mispronounced or misspelled by changing certain letters to prevent the deadly sin of breaking the Third commandment of "taking the Name of the Lord in vain."
6. A name to be printed as "G-d" or "L-rd" lest "the name" be "taken in vain.")



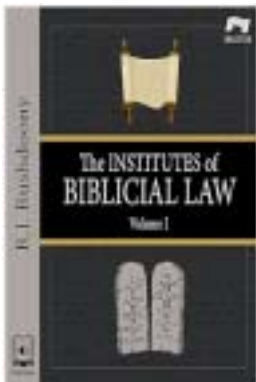
May we guard ourselves against such sanctimonious man-made rules of counterfeit holiness! His sacred names were intended to be spoken, written, worshipped, and even praised out loud by His people!

Notice in the regulations above, the frequent references to the danger of being guilty of "taking the name of the Lord in vain." The inference is toward speaking His name irreverently, mispronouncing His name, pronouncing forbidden holy names of the Almighty, etc.

This is NOT what it means to "take the name of the Lord in vain."

Consider this quote from *"The Institutes of Biblical Law" by R. J. Rushdooney:*

*"To take **THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN** is to deny in reality the only true God; it is the **EMPTY PROFESSION** of Him when our lives and actions, and often every thought, possession, and every law-sphere is alienated from God or blasphemously ascribed to ourselves." pg. 117*



What is the heart of the 3rd Commandment? It is to take the name "Christian" to ourselves, but then not to live out our lives in a Christ-like manner! Such a one has "taken the Name of the Lord in vain." This commandment has nothing to do with what we say with our mouths pertaining to His sacred names, but rather is about how we live our lives for the One whose name we bear! **23**

Below are two of my favorite meditation charts.

The first quote pertains to the value of names in Scripture taken from
Institutes of Biblical Law, R. J. Rushdooney.

The second is a list of key names of God comprised by the late Herb Jahn, Exegete
found at <https://www.exegesesbible.com/blog>

I framed these two displays and hung them together in a visible place as a constant
reminder of the significance of God's revealed names:

**"EVERY NAME OR TITLE OF GOD
REVEALS SOME ATTRIBUTE OF THE DIVINE CHARACTER OF GOD.
IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD, WE LEARN NEW FACTS ABOUT GOD'S NATURE
WITH EACH NEW NAME BY WHICH HE REVEALS HIMSELF.
IN OTHER WORDS,
GOD NAMES HIMSELF WHAT HE IS!"**

Institutes of Biblical Law, R. J. Rushdooney.

ELOHIM

*"PLURALITY
IN UNITY"
(Gen.1:1)*

EL

*"THE STRONG
ONE"
(Gen.14:18)*

ELAH,

*"THE ADORABLE
ONE"
(Ezra 4:24)*

EL ELYON

*"GOD MOST HIGH"
(Gen.14:18)*

EL ROI

*"THE LORD THAT
SEETH"
(Gen.16:13)*

EL ELOHE YISRA EL

*"GOD OF ISRAEL"
(Gen.33:20)*

EL SHADDAY

*"THE ALMIGHTY,
ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD"
(Gen.17:1)*

ADONAY

*"YAH VEH OUR RULER"
(Gen.15:2)*

YAH VEH

*"THE ETERNAL,
EVER-LOVING ONE"
(Gen.4:3)*

YAH VEH-TSEBAOTH

*"THE LORD OF HOSTS"
(1 Sam.1:3)*

YAH VEH-RAAH

*"THE LORD
MY SHEPHERD"
(Psalm 23:1)*

YAH VEH-YIREH

*"THE LORD APPEARS- IS SEEN"
(Gen.22:14)*

YAH VEH-TSIDKENU

*"THE LORD
OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"
(1 Kings 2:4)*

YAH VEH-MAKKEH

*"THE LORD SHALL SMITE"
(Ezekiel 7:9)*

YAH VEH-GMOLAH

*"THE GOD OF
RECOMPENSES"
(Deut. 32:36)*

YAH YAH VEH

*"GOD OF ETERNITY"
(Isaiah 26:4)*

YAH VEH-SHAM

*"THE LORD IS THERE"
(Ezekiel 48:35)*

YAH VEH-SHALOM

*"THE LORD OUR PEACE"
(Judges 6:24)*

YAH VEH-HOSEENU

*"THE LORD
OUR MAKER"
(Job 35:10)*

YAH VEH-ELOHIM

*"THE MAJESTIC
OMNIPOTENT GOD"
(Gen.2:4)*

YAH VEH-RAPHAH

*"THE LORD,
THE HEALER"
(Ex. 15:26)*

YAH VEH-NISSI

*"THE LORD
OUR BANNER"
(Ex.17:15)*

YAH VEH-M'KADDESH

*"THE LORD DOTH
SANCTIFY"
(Ex. 31:13)*

**YAH VEH-
ELOHEKA**

*"LORD THY GOD"
(Deut. 2:7)*

YAH VEH-ELOHAY

*"THE LORD MY GOD"
(Judges 6:15)*

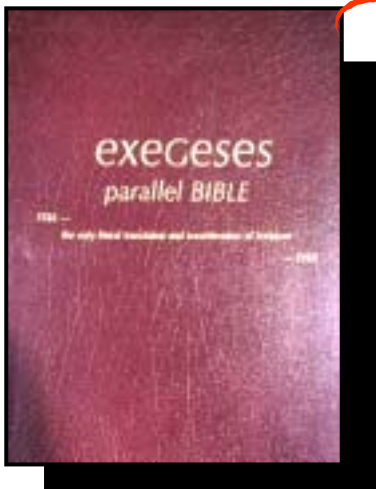
The Late Herb Jahn Exegete at: www.exegesesbible.com/blog

Among the 25 primary Hebrew names describing the Almighty is this one:

"ELOHIM"
"PLURALITY IN UNITY"

The Name "ELOHIM" appears 2,197 times in the Old Testament Hebrew Scripture and thereby qualifies as being among the top three Hebrew Names used for the Almighty. However, it is a name surrounded in controversy and dispute between scholars of Rabbinical Judaism and Christianity.

ELOHIM "THE ALMIGHTY PLURITY" Deut. 10:17	EL "THE STRONG" Gen. 14:18	ELIM "THE AVAILABLE GOD" Isa. 40:5	EL EPHRAIM "GOD THAT FEEDS" Isa. 7:18	EL MOU "THE LORD THAT BREAST" Isa. 63:16	EL SHAMMAH "THE CONQUEROR GOD" Isa. 51:9	ADONAI "LORD FOR OUR ALLEGE" Isa. 54:5
ELOHIM "THE ALMIGHTY PLURITY" Deut. 10:17	EL "THE STRONG" Gen. 14:18	ELIM "THE AVAILABLE GOD" Isa. 40:5	EL EPHRAIM "GOD THAT FEEDS" Isa. 7:18	EL MOU "THE LORD THAT BREAST" Isa. 63:16	EL SHAMMAH "THE CONQUEROR GOD" Isa. 51:9	ADONAI "LORD FOR OUR ALLEGE" Isa. 54:5
ELOHIM "THE ALMIGHTY PLURITY" Deut. 10:17	EL "THE STRONG" Gen. 14:18	ELIM "THE AVAILABLE GOD" Isa. 40:5	EL EPHRAIM "GOD THAT FEEDS" Isa. 7:18	EL MOU "THE LORD THAT BREAST" Isa. 63:16	EL SHAMMAH "THE CONQUEROR GOD" Isa. 51:9	ADONAI "LORD FOR OUR ALLEGE" Isa. 54:5



Elohim, elohim transliterated plural title {430 elohim} plural of {433 eloahh, elowahh}; this plural title has a dual interpretation; at times it refers to pagan gods, and at times to the triune Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Exegeses Parallel Bible, Exegete, Herb Jahn, page 1868, Summaries -Lexicon

If you research the Name "ELOHIM" on the Internet you will usually see the phrase "PLURALITY IN UNITY" attached to it as in the above list from Exegete Herb Jahn's Exegeses Parallel Bible.

However, in your research you may also find a similar phrase attached to the Hebrew Name "ELOHIM" which is "PLURALITY IN MAJESTY", and especially if you happen to be searching on a Rabbinical Judaism website. "PLURALITY IN UNITY" is a Christian rebuttal phrase to the Rabbinical Jewish phrase of "PLURALITY IN MAJESTY."

"ELOHIM"
"PLURALITY IN MAJESTY"

You may remember the classic old science-fiction book, *"War of the Worlds"*? This is a depiction of "The War of the Words"!

"ELOHIM"
"PLURALITY IN UNITY"

Rabbinical Judaism's stance...

Christianity's stance...

The Hebrew language is very exacting leaving little or no leeway in defining its meaning. The Hebrew Name 'ELOHIM' is a strong PLURAL noun appearing 2,197 times in the Hebrew Scripture as among the top three Names for the Almighty. Since Rabbinical Judaism is strong in their belief of a monotheistic God, then they must hold a totally different perspective as to the meaning of ELOHIM. It certainly can't represent a "PLURAL GODHEAD" in a monotheistic religion, so ELOHIM" is therefore taught as "PLURALITY IN (His) MAJESTY" rather than a literal Triune Godhead functioning by means of "PLURALITY IN UNITY."

Let us begin to properly define the meaning this Hebrew Name:



"EL" by itself is also a Name for the Almighty (see list pg. 24). It is a SINGULAR noun meaning, "The Strong One" or "The Almighty One." No controversy here. However, the letters ending in "IM" in "ELOHIM", depicts for us a very strong PLURAL noun with the choice of meaning of "Gods, Godhood, Godhead." There is controversy here!

Some Christian scholars view the Name "ELOHIM" as revealing the hidden seeds of the Triune Godhead that the New Testament will plainly unfold as the Triune Divine Godhead of Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

THIS IS IMPORTANT:

It is of paramount importance that we understand that the above revelation of the Triune Godhead contained in the word, "ELOHIM" becomes badly overshadowed by the translators of ALL of our English Bibles, including the King James Version, by the generic English word, "God" being substituted in place of the specific Name of "ELOHIM." Only by the use of works like Exegete Herb Jahn's "Exegeses Parallel Bible" or a good Hebrew Interlineal Bible will show what the Almighty has recorded about the supreme importance of studying His various names as revealed in Scripture. The singular Name "GOD" is a poor substitute for the plural Name "ELOHIM"!

In the very first verse of Genesis Chapter One the Almighty is revealed with His chosen Name of "ELOHIM." The Name specified here in Hebrew scripture is NOT "God", but rather is "Elohim." By the time you get down to verse 26 Elohim speaks as a PLURAL Godhead with the use of such clarifying words as "US and OUR":

~~"Then "God" Elohim said,~~
"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"
Gen. 1:26

The contextual setting of Genesis Chapter One requires that we properly interpret the Creator as being "ELOHIM" (the Almighty Godhead) who proclaims plainly of this Triune Godhead, "Let US make man in OUR image, and in OUR likeness." It is puzzling that the translators left Genesis 1:26 intact plainly depicting a PLURAL Godhead of ("US and OUR"), but plunged ahead substituting a singular generic "God" Name for the plural Name of "ELOHIM." That is a vivid example of the power of tradition at work! Rabbinical Judaism has had its way with our English translations in substituting the generic singular Name, "God" in place of the specific Name of "Elohim." This blatant substitution occurs in every one of the 2,197 places where "Elohim" is used in the Old Testament! It is intentional!

Compared to the revelational Name "ELOHIM" ("the Almighty Godhead") the substituted singular Name "GOD" is quite "generic", don't you think? Let me give you a vivid illustration: If I told you that today I saw a "bird", that would be quite a vague and generic description, true? However, if I rather told you that today I saw a "Peacock", you would instantly have a vivid picture in your mind. "Bird" is a generic term. "Peacock" is a specific term. "God" is a generic term. "Elohim" is a specific term.



Beware when the Almighty pens a very specific plural word in describing His Personage, and man, without justifiable cause, replaces it with a singular generic substitute. On what basis does man freely substitute with his own generic preferred choice something that the Almighty has chosen to identify His specific Personage? Such willful bias originates from Rabbinical Judaism's strong influence on the translators. Rabbinical Judaism wants to always depict a singular "God" image rather than a plural Godhead!

The Name "ELOHIM" was specifically chosen by the Almighty 2,197 times in Scripture to show plainly a Triune Godhead that functions by means of "plurality in unity" and not so that man could take it upon himself to freely substitute the singular generic name "GOD" in place of the specific plural Name of "ELOHIM" - the Almighty Godhead! Remember this illuminating truth:


**"EVERY NAME OR TITLE OF GOD
REVEALS SOME ATTRIBUTE OF THE DIVINE CHARACTER OF GOD.
IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD, WE LEARN NEW FACTS ABOUT GOD'S NATURE
WITH EACH NEW NAME BY WHICH HE REVEALS HIMSELF.
IN OTHER WORDS, GOD NAMES HIMSELF WHAT HE IS!"**

Institutes of Biblical Law, R. J. Rushdooney.


THE POWER OF TRADITION

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Rabbinical Judaism's view of God is
SINGULAR
("there is only one God")



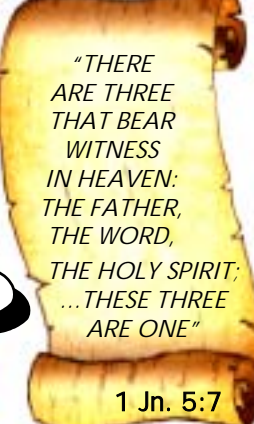
Deut. 6:4
"THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD!"



"Them there is fightin' words!"

Here are two opposing positions on who is the Almighty.

Christianity's View of God is
PLURALISTIC
(a Triune Godhead)



1 Jn. 5:7
"THERE ARE THREE IN THE GODHEAD!"

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Rabbinical Judaism is firmly entrenched in the daily Shema prayer declaration (Deut. 6:4) that there is only one monotheistic God in existence. However, Christian scholars are firmly convinced that the Almighty is revealed as a three-fold Divine Godhead consisting of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (1 Jn.5:7). Below is heavy evidence in Genesis that favors Christianity's view of the existence of a Triune PLURAL Godhead:



~~"God~~ ELOHIM said,
 "Let Us make man
 in Our image,
 according to Our likeness"
 Gen.1:26

However, Rabbinical Judaism interprets the meaning of "Elohim" as referring to the Creator having "plurality in (His) Majesty" rather than plurality in His physical existence. Rabbinical Judaism teaches that the plurality contained in the word "Elohim" describes the multi-faceted character/titles of their singular "God." However, this does NOT explain how He describes Himself as the Creator in using words like "US" and "OUR"! The Almighty is not speaking of His majestic attributes in this contextual setting, but rather of the literal PLURALITY contained within the Godhead. It is hard to dismiss away that these are the words of a plural Godhead of "US" and "OUR" speaking rather than a singular "God" who has plurality only in His Majestic character and titles! Context of Genesis 1:1-26 plainly presents a PLURAL Godhead at work in creating man in His likeness!

There exists stark contrasts between these two different concepts of the Almighty known as "Elohim." For Rabbinical Judaism, "Elohim" is one literal "God" who is plural only by His myriads of majestic character and titles. For the enlightened Christian "Elohim" represents a Triune (plural) Godhead of three Divine personages functioning in oneness and unity of purpose.

~ ELOHIM ~

to Rabbinical Judaism is

**"PLURALITY
IN MAJESTY"**

"ONE GOD
POSSESSING
MYRIADS OF
CHARACTER /TITLES"



On
the left is
"the tradition
of men."

~ ELOHIM ~

to Christianity is

**"PLURALITY
IN UNITY"**

"TRIUNE GODHEAD
FUNCTIONING
AS ONE IN UNITY
OF PURPOSE"

It's stated conclusion is

based on
monotheistic Judaism
and its theological
elimination of any
possibility of
"multiple Gods" being
implied in the name,
"Elohim."

Therefore Elohim
is defined as consisting of
"Plurality in Majesty."

However,
on the right is Jesus'
prayer to the Father
expressing a desire

for all
"THAT THEY MAY BE
ONE
IN US"...

"THAT THEY MAY BE
ONE
JUST AS WE
ARE ONE..."

"THAT THEY MAY BE
MADE PERFECT IN
ONE."

This is the
Triune Godhead
in oneness of unity
and purpose.
Therefore "Elohim"
is defined rightly as
"Plurality in Unity."



*"I do not pray for
these alone, but also
for those who will
believe in Me through
their word;
that they all
may be one, as You,
Father, are in Me, and
I in You; that they
also may be one in Us,
that the world may
believe that You sent
Me. And the glory
which You gave Me
I have given them,
that they may be one
just as We are one:
I in them, and You in
Me; that they may be
made perfect in one,
and that the world
may know that You
have sent Me, and
have loved them as
You have loved Me."*

John 17:20-23



*"The precise meaning
of "Elohim" is a subject
of interpretation and
debate among scholars.*

*... "Elohim" is generally
understood as a term
for God, emphasizing
His authority, power,
and divine nature...*

*Elohim can be
interpreted as a plural
form of majesty,
suggesting the
greatness and
sovereignty of God.*

*However, within
the context of
monotheistic
Judaism, it does not
indicate the belief
in multiple gods but
rather emphasizes
the singular God's
exalted nature."*

(<https://davidraphaelisrael.medium.com/on-Elohim-the-majesties-c9986b25fb7c>)

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"ALL TOO WELL YOU
 REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
 THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION...
 MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT
 THROUGH YOUR TRADITION
 WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN." Mark 7:9-13



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"The precise meaning of "Elohim" is a subject of interpretation and debate among scholars.

... "Elohim" is generally understood as a term for God, emphasizing His authority, power, and divine nature..."

"Elohim can be interpreted as a plural form of majesty, suggesting the greatness and sovereignty of God."

"However, within the context of monotheistic Judaism, it does not indicate the belief in multiple gods but rather emphasizes the singular God's exalted nature."

This is an understatement! It is more like a raging rampage between the two warring parties. Just research "Plurality in Majesty" vs. "Plurality in Unity." What you are going to find from Rabbinical Judaism is a smoke screen of intellectual arguments that split hairs over proper/improper use of nouns or proper verb tense in the Hebrew school of difficult linguistics.

There is no question that the Almighty possesses many different titles describing areas of His Majesty as a sovereign Creator of all creation, however, we are talking about One who identifies Himself with words of plurality of existence such as "Us and Our" as being the creators of mankind! The context demands the existence of a plural Godhead at work!

Here is the crux of the problem! Rabbinical Judaism refuses to think beyond a monotheistic concept of the Almighty! They are taught to confess twice daily the Shema prayer of Deut.6:4 that states:

Shema Yisrael (שמע ישראל) ("Hear, O Israel") are the first two words of a section of the Torah that is the centerpiece of the morning and evening prayer services, encapsulating the monotheistic essence of Judaism:

"Hear, O Israel: G-d is our L-rd, G-d is one."

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/705353/jewish/The-Shema.htm

I took this prayer directly from a Rabbinical Judaism website so that you could see that the contained Names are neither written out or pronounced-they are "just too holy for mere man." Would it surprise you that the Name of the Almighty in this Shema sacred prayer is plural "ELOHIM" rather than the singular "G-D"?

Here is that same verse as printed in Herb Jahn's Exegeses Parallel Bible. The real Name of ELOHIM in Deut.6:4 is substituted with a generic "G-D" in the traditional Shema prayer.

EXEGESES PARALLEL BIBLE
 exeGeses POBox 1776 • Orange CA • 92668

Hear, O Israel Yisra El:
 The LORD Yah Veh our God Elohim
 is one LORD Yah Veh:
 And thou shalt love the LORD Yah Veh thy God Elohim

"ELOHIM" ("Gods, Godhood, Godhead") is changed by Rabbinical Judaism into a singular "G-D". A proper translation would depict the Godhead (plural) as being one that functions in "Plurality in Unity." It is the "Us an Our" Godhead working together as one Godhead in unity and purpose.

The brand of intellectualism that Rabbinical Judaism espouses does not give a satisfying explanation of what comprises the Almighty. Neither does their cherished handed-down traditions of the oral Talmud impart what is missing. Truth consists of only what is recorded in Scripture. Paul the apostle would often say, "but what do the Scriptures say?" (Rom. 4:3).

For a prime example of a pungent rebuke of the prideful intellectual, let us consider what is recorded in Scripture of one who never claimed to be a learned man, but one used to pose an enormous challenge to the intellectuals of Judaism's leaders in his day:

*"THE WORDS OF AGUR
THE SON OF JAKEH, HIS UTTERANCE.
THIS MAN DECLARED TO ITHIEL
- TO ITHIEL AND UCAL:*

*'SURELY I AM MORE STUPID
THAN ANY MAN,
AND DO NOT HAVE
THE UNDERSTANDING OF A MAN.*

*I NEITHER LEARNED WISDOM
NOR HAVE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE HOLY ONE.*



Agur

*WHO HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, OR DESCENDED?
WHO HAS GATHERED THE WIND IN HIS FISTS?
WHO HAS BOUND THE WATERS IN A GARMENT?
WHO HAS ESTABLISHED ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH?*

***WHAT IS HIS NAME, AND WHAT IS
HIS SON'S NAME, IF YOU KNOW?***

*...EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE...
DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS..."*

Proverbs 30:1-6

First of all notice that in context, Agur has the Creator of the ends of the earth in mind when he issues the challenge to all intellectuals of his day to reveal what is not only the Name of the Creator, but also asks what is the Name of the Creator's Son! In context, we must ask is not Agur suggesting that there was more than a "singular God" figure at work in Creation, that of the Father and His Son?

The startling fact that the Creator would even have a Son should shake up Agur's peers who are steeped in the daily monotheistic Shema prayer of all Jews:

"Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one!" (Deut. 6:4).

What does Agur's statement above say about the validity of Judaism's monotheistic concept of God with their proud follow up statement, "God has no Son!"? The above passages are as much a part of inspired Scripture as is Deuteronomy's sacred Shema prayer, is it not? Both of these statements cannot be true, so which one is theologically amiss?

Israel has been heavily indoctrinated with the blinding Rabbinical teaching of a monotheistic God, so He certainly cannot have a Divine Son that bears the title, "The Son of God" as proclaimed by Agur, can He?

Yes He can, but it takes the additional supportative revelation of the Creation/Creator that the apostle Paul presents along with the added illumination of the apostle John to convey the complete picture of what we find in the Old Testament account in Genesis.

"WHAT IS HIS NAME, AND WHAT IS HIS SON'S NAME, IF YOU KNOW?" Proverbs 30:1-6

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*"IN THE BEGINNING, "~~GOD~~" (erroneous generic substitute Name)
ELOHIM-THE ALMIGHTY GODHEAD (correct specific Name in Hebrew)
CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH..."
"...LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE AND IN OUR LIKENESS"*
Gen. 1:1,26

*"HE (Jesus the Son)
IS THE IMAGE OF
THE INVISIBLE GOD...
FOR BY HIM
ALL THINGS WERE CREATED
THAT ARE IN
HEAVEN AND THAT ARE ON
EARTH... ALL THINGS WERE
CREATED THROUGH HIM
AND FOR HIM.
AND HE IS
BEFORE ALL THINGS,
AND IN HIM
ALL THINGS
CONSIST."*
Col 1:15-18



*"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 WERE MADE
THROUGH HIM,
AND WITHOUT HIM
NOTHING WAS MADE
THAT WAS MADE."*
John 1:1-4

Spend some time digesting the above chart. It will harmonize what Moses and Agur presented along with what the apostle Paul and John adds to the creation account. They are in agreement, not in conflict. Put the blame where it belongs. Any confusion stems from the generic substitution of the singular Name "God" used by the translators in place of the specific Name of Hebrew scripture, "ELOHIM-THE ALMIGHTY GODHEAD."

When considering all the passages above in the Old and New Testaments we can see it was the whole Godhead at work in Genesis, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ponder well the two apostles account of Creation above. Not only is Jesus Christ stated to be "the Creator of all things" by the apostle Paul, but the apostle John adds to that story that "The Word" who we know to be Jesus Christ (Rev.19:13), is clearly identified to also be "God":

***"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 WERE MADE THROUGH HIM,
AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT WAS MADE."***
John 1:1-4

This is not "one God" physically, but rather a literal threefold Triune Godhead consisting of Father, Son and Holy Spirit! **32**

I am well aware that what I just stated on the previous page will never be endorsed by the likes of Rabbinical Judaism that rejects all such New Testament scripture as being part of the inspired Word of the Almighty. They prefer to stick with their additional handed-down traditions which makes the Word to be of no effect.

This book is not aimed at reaching Rabbinical Judaism.

My purpose so far has been to use their biased love of tradition-based beliefs as vivid illustrations of the

BINDING AND BLINDING POWER OF REPLACING TRUTH WITH TRADITION:



“BUT THEIR MINDS WERE BLINDED.
FOR UNTIL THIS DAY
THE SAME VEIL REMAINS UNLIFTED
IN THE READING OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT,
BECAUSE THE VEIL IS
TAKEN AWAY IN CHRIST.
BUT EVEN TO THIS DAY,
WHEN MOSES IS READ,
A VEIL LIES ON THEIR HEART.



Paul

ONE TURNS TO THE LORD, THE VEIL IS TAKEN AWAY.”

2 Cor 3:14-17

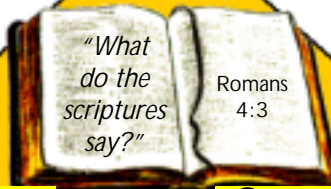
There is only one pathway to avoid the pitfalls of tradition and that is to embrace scripture-based truth. There are three principles that are crucial to imparting truth to sincere seekers. They are all “C” words:

“BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF
APPROVED TO GOD,
A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED,
RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.”

2 Tim 2:15-16

These three security measures will also keep you, dear reader, from exchanging the **TRUTH** contained in God’s Word for the **TRADITION** of men.

1. **CONTEXT**



2. **COMPARE**

3. **CONFIRM**

“NOT AS MAN’S WISDOM
TEACHES BUT AS
THE HOLY SPIRIT
TEACHES
COMPARING SPIRITUAL
THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL.”

1 Cor 2:12-14

“BY THE MOUTH OF
TWO OR THREE
WITNESSES
EVERY WORD
SHALL BE
ESTABLISHED.”

2 Cor 13:1-2

"Much confusion has been wrought in Bible exposition and much damage done to Christianity by the careless habit of concentrating on an isolated verse of scripture with no reference to its relationships."

Pertaining to the importance of always considering the very context in which we find specific scripture, I give you this piece of sound counsel from the Late Harold Horton written in 1934 in his classic work, *"The Gifts of the Spirit"*

The context is often a sufficient commentary on a difficult verse. No solitary, minute portion of scripture can be expected to yield its full meaning without a full consideration of its illuminating surroundings."



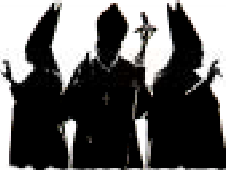
(Although it is not the main subject matter of this book, let us consider a little more evidence pertaining to the danger of mixing tradition with truth.)

A LITTLE LEAVEN GOES A LONG WAY

We have looked at the leaven that has permeated monotheistic Rabbinical Judaism. They are emphatic in their dogmatic conclusion that "God has no Son!"



RABBINICAL JUDAISM 1



ROMAN CATHOLICISM 2



MAIN STREAM CHRISTIANITY 3

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE **LEAVEN** WHICH A WOMAN HID IN THREE MEASURES OF MEAL TILL IT WAS **ALL** LEAVENED." Matt. 13:3



Enter Roman Catholicism. It bears the cynical title of, "The King of Tradition."

We shall examine the level of tradition in it as well as what is found in Christianity! You may be shocked at what I have to say about such tradition that exists in the concept of Christianity's widely accepted "Three-in-one God"! This is a Catholic-based tradition that has never been taught in the Word!

"ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION...
 MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION
 WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN."

Mark 7:9-13

"THE KINGDOM
 OF HEAVEN IS
 LIKE
LEAVEN
 WHICH A WOMAN
 HID IN THREE
 MEASURES OF MEAL
 TILL IT
 WAS **ALL**
 LEAVENED."
 Matt. 13:3



**RABBINICAL
 JUDAISM
 HAS BEEN
 TOTALLY LEAVENED
 BY TRADITION**



"GOD HAS NO SON!"

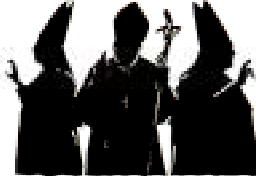
"THIS IS THE WITNESS OF
 GOD WHICH HE HAS
 TESTIFIED
 OF HIS SON....
 HE WHO DOES NOT
 BELIEVE GOD HAS MADE
 HIM A LIAR, BECAUSE
 HE HAS NOT
 BELIEVED THE
 TESTIMONY THAT
 GOD HAS GIVEN OF
 HIS SON.

AND THIS IS THE
 TESTIMONY: THAT GOD
 HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL
 LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS
 IN HIS SON.
 HE WHO HAS
 THE SON HAS LIFE;
 HE WHO DOES NOT
 HAVE THE SON
 OF GOD
 DOES NOT
 HAVE LIFE."

1 John 5:9-13

"...WHOEVER
 TRANSGRESSES
 AND DOES NOT ABIDE IN
 THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST
 DOES NOT HAVE GOD.
 HE WHO ABIDES
 IN THE DOCTRINE
 OF CHRIST
 HAS BOTH
 THE FATHER AND
 THE SON."
 2 John 7-10

**ROMAN
 CATHOLICISM
 HAS BEEN
 TOTALLY LEAVENED
 BY TRADITION**



**"CATHOLICISM
 DOES NOT PRACTICE
 ANY CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES
 THAT WERE GIVEN
 BY GOD IN HIS WORD!
 RATHER THEIR DOCTRINES
 ARE ALL
 TRADITION-BASED
 WHICH HOLD AN
 OPPOSING POSITION TO
 REVEALED SCRIPTURE.
 THERE IS NOTHING
 CHRISTIAN ABOUT
 CATHOLICISM!**

Pastor Randy Shupe-
 "Babylon the Great"
 page 212

On pages 36-40 I have printed out for you 19 examples from my book, "Babylon the Great" to support the above statement. Roman Catholicism is even more blatant in their cherished traditions than Rabbinical Judaism. Catholicism is cynically called "The King of Tradition" and as we shall see, is the origin of Christianity's belief in a "Three-in-one God" trinity.

**CHRISTIANTY
 HAS THE SEEDS
 OF LEAVEN
 SOWN WITHIN
 BY TRADITION**



**"WE WORSHIP ONE GOD
 AS A TRINITY...
 THE FATHER IS GOD,
 THE SON IS GOD,
 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.
 THEY ARE NOT THREE GODS,
 BUT ONE GOD.
 NONE IS GREATER OR LESSER
 THAN ANOTHER...
 THE WHOLE THREE PERSONS
 ARE COEQUAL IN POSITION
 AND IN AUTHORITY"**

The above Catholic Creeds from the 3rd and 5th Century has been readily endorsed today by most of professing Christianity! However, this was not the teaching of the Apostle Paul found in any of his 13 epistles. Paul did not endorse the concept of a "three-in-one God" Trinity but rather freely spoke of a literal Triune Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

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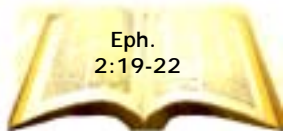
Before we look into how tradition is replacing truth in Christianity by means of the "Three-in-One God" trinity, consider these pages about the totality of tradition replacing truth in all of Roman Catholic doctrines. This is not an attack on Catholicism per say, but rather a vivid illustration of how the tradition of men nullifies the truth stated in His Word. Let us now consider a terse comparison of Christian doctrines according to the Word vs. man-made Catholic doctrines and ask,

"IS THERE ANYTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM?"

FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIANITY:

"...THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, HAVING BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE..."
Eph. 2:19-20

JESUS CHRIST, THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS

THE WORD TEACHES THAT JESUS IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT.

(Mat. 16:13-18, 1Pet. 2:4-8, Eph. 2:20-21, Col. 1:15-18, Heb. 8:1)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PRESENT VOICE OF GOD ON THE EARTH.

(Rev. 3:13, 14:13, 5:6, 4:5, Jn. 16:8, 13, Jn.14:26, Gal.5:16, Eph. 4:30, Acts 5:3)

THE BIBLE EXALTS THE WORD OF GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS AND WARNS AGAINST TRADITIONS THAT MAKE IT OF NO EFFECT.

(Mark 7:6-13, Col. 2:8, Psm.138:2, 1Pet.1:18-25, 2Tim. 3:15-17, Jn. 1:1,14, Rev. 19:13, Psm. 12:6, Psm. 119:160)

FOUNDATION OF CATHOLICISM:

"BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU THROUGH... EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN... AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST."
Col. 2:8

EMPTY DECEIT



THE TRADITION OF MEN

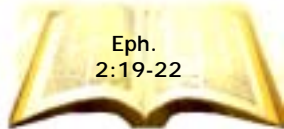
CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) TEACHES THAT PETER IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS BUILT.

THE PAPACY ITSELF IS THE PRESENT ("INFALLIBLE") VOICE ("VICAR") OF GOD ON THE EARTH.

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) EXALTS THEIR OWN "SACRED TRADITIONS" ABOVE THE WORD OF GOD, EVEN WHEN THOSE TRADITIONS ARE IN OPPOSITION TO THE WORD OF GOD, DUE TO "PAPAL INFALLIBILITY."

"IS THERE ANYTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM?"

**JESUS CHRIST,
THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE**



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS

EMPTY DECEIT



THE TRADITION OF MEN

**SALVATION IS IN CHRIST ALONE
BY FAITH IN GRACE RECEIVED
AS A FREE GIFT
APART FROM WORKS.**

(Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 3:28, 5:1-2, 5:21, 6:23, 10:9-13, 1Cor.15:1-4, 2Cor. 5:21, 1Jn. 5:9-13, Jn. 3:15-18, 3:36, 14:6, 5:39)

**SALVATION IS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH
BAPTISMAL REGENERATION,
THROUGH
THE EUCHARIST, THE MASS,
THE CONFESSIONAL,
AND MAINTAINING A
RIGHT-STANDING IN
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

**WATER BAPTISM IS ONLY FOR THOSE
WHO FIRST REPENT AND BELIEVE THE
GOSPEL, AND IT IS ONLY BY
TOTAL IMMERSION.**

(Acts 2:38,41, Acts 8:34-38, Rom. 6:3-6, Col. 2:11-13, 1Pet. 3:21)

**WATER BAPTISM BRINGS
SALVATION (BAPTISMAL
REGENERATION) BY MEANS OF
SPRINKLING PERFORMED EVEN
ON INFANTS WHO CANNOT
REPENT.**

**THE WORD TEACHES ETERNAL,
EVER-LASTING DAMNATION FOR ALL
WHO DO NOT RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST.**

(Mark 9:42-48, Rev.14:10-11,20:10, 14,15 Rev. 21:8, Luke 16:19-31,)

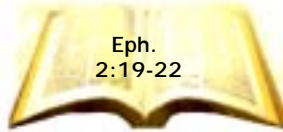
**CATHOLICISM TEACHES A
TEMPORARY "PURGATORY"
(EVEN FOR BELIEVERS)
AND "ULTIMATE
RECONCILIATION"
FOR UNBELIEVERS DUE TO
"GOD NOT WILLING THAT
ANY PERISH – SO THEY
WON'T!"**

**THE WORD TEACHES
THE DIVINE TRINITY REIGNING
IN HEAVEN:
"THERE ARE THREE WHO BEAR
WITNESS IN HEAVEN –THE
FATHER, THE WORD (JESUS),
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AND THESE THREE
ARE ONE." (in unity)
(1Jn. 5:7)**

**CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY)
TEACHES THERE ARE
FOUR REIGNING IN HEAVEN –
THE FATHER, THE SON,
THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AND
"MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD,
THE MOTHER OF
THE CHURCH,
THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN."**

"IS THERE ANYTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM?"

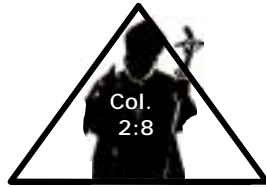
**JESUS CHRIST,
THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE**



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS



EMPTY DECEIT



THE TRADITION OF MEN

**THE WORD TEACHES
"THERE IS ONE MEDIATOR
BETWEEN GOD AND MAN,
THE MAN CHRIST JESUS."**

(1Tim. 2:5, Heb 8:6, Jn. 14:6,
Eph. 2:18, Jn. 16:23)

**CATHOLICISM HAS TWO
MEDIATORS: MARY IS THE
MEDIATOR IN HEAVEN BETWEEN
GOD (JESUS) AND MAN.
THE CATHOLIC PRIEST IS THE
MEDIATOR ON EARTH BETWEEN
MAN AND GOD.**

**THE WORD TEACHES
A FIVEFOLD MINISTRY GIVEN TO
MEN BY CHRIST TO GUIDE THE
CHURCH – (ELDERS) "APOSTLES,
PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS AND
PASTORS AND TEACHERS"**

(Eph. 4:7-14, 1Cor. 12:28-29)

**CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY)
TEACHES A MAN-MADE
HIERARCHY TO RULE THE
CHURCH CONSISTING OF
THE PAPACY, CARDINALS,
ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS,
AND A CLERGY OF PRIESTS.**

**THE WORD TEACHES
ALL BELIEVERS ARE SAINTS
IN THIS PRESENT LIFE.**

(Rom. 1:7, 16:15, 1Cor. 1:2,
2 Cor. 13:13)

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES
BELIEVERS ONLY BECOME
SAINTS AFTER DEATH, AND
ONLY IF CANONIZED BY
THE POPE FOR GOOD WORKS,
MIRACLES ETC.**

**THE WORD TEACHES
ALL BELIEVERS ARE A HOLY,
ROYAL PRIESTHOOD CHOSEN BY
GOD TO OFFER ACCEPTABLE
SACRIFICES TO GOD THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.**

(1Pet. 2:4-9)

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES
A SELECT, CELIBATE,
MALE ONLY, PRIESTHOOD
CHOSEN BY CATHOLIC
HIERARCHY TO OFFER
SACRIFICES TO GOD ON BEHALF
OF THE PEOPLE.**

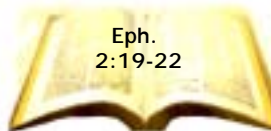
**THE WORD TEACHES CONFESSION
OF SIN TO GOD AND
FORGIVENESS FROM GOD
THROUGH REPENTANCE BIRTHED
BY A CONTRITE HEART BROKEN
OVER SIN.**

(Prov. 28:13, Psm. 51, Psm. 38:18,
Psm. 32:1-5, 1Jn. 1:9, 2:1-2)

**CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY)
TEACHES CONFESSION OF SIN
TO A CATHOLIC PRIEST AND
FORGIVENESS OF SIN BY THAT
PRIEST THROUGH ASSIGNED
ACTS OF PENITENCE TO BE
PERFORMED BY THE SINNER.**

"IS THERE ANYTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM?"

JESUS CHRIST,
THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS



EMPTY DECEIT



THE TRADITION
OF MEN

THE WORD TEACHES THE BELIEVER NOT TO PRAY VAIN, REPETITIOUS PRAYERS AS THE HEATHEN DO, FOR THEY THINK THEY WILL BE HEARD FOR THEIR MANY WORDS.

(Matt. 6:7)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) TEACHES PRAYING REPETITIOUSLY THE ROSARY WHICH CONTAINS A TEN-TO-ONE RATIO OF PRAYERS TO MARY VS. PRAYING TO GOD.

THE WORD TEACHES THE BELIEVER TO PRAY DIRECTLY TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH JESUS CHRIST AS OUR ONLY MEDIATOR.

(Jn. 15:16, 16:23-24, Luke 11:2, Eph.2:18, Heb. 7:22-27, 1Tim. 2:5)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) TEACHES PRAYING DIRECTLY TO DECEASED SAINTS IN HEAVEN WHO ARE ABLE TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM, AND ESPECIALLY PRAY TO MARY AS THE MEDIATOR TO GOD.

THE WORD TEACHES THE BELIEVER NOT TO CALL ANY MAN ON EARTH "FATHER" BECAUSE THE BELIEVER HAS ONE FATHER, HE WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

(Matt. 23:9)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) TEACHES THAT EVERY CATHOLIC PRIEST IS TO BE CALLED "FATHER," AND THAT THE POPE IS TO BE CALLED "THE HOLY FATHER."

THE WORD EMPHASIZES A GLORIOUS, RISEN CHRIST WHO NOW REIGNS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER

(Heb. 8:1-2, 1Cor. 15:25, 1Tim. 6:15-16, Rev. 1:11-18, Rev. 6:16-17)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) EMPHASIZES A CRUCIFIED CHRIST OR AS "BABY JESUS" IN HEAVEN, STILL IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER MARY WHO REIGNS AS THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

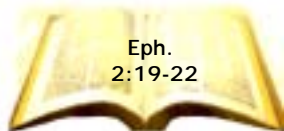
THE WORD INSTRUCTS CHURCH ELDERS ("APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS AND TEACHERS" – Eph. 4:11) TO BE EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK AND NOT LORDS OVER THEM.

(1Pet. 5:1-4, Phil. 3:17, Matt. 20:25-28)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) BY MEANS OF "PAPAL INFALLIBILITY," LORDS OVER ITS PEOPLE WITH THREATS: "HENCE IF ANYONE, WHICH GOD FORBID, SHOULD DARE WILLFULLY TO DENY OR TO CALL INTO DOUBT THAT WHICH WE HAVE DEFINED, LET HIM KNOW THAT HE HAS FALLEN AWAY COMPLETELY FROM THE DIVINE AND CATHOLIC FAITH."

"IS THERE ANYTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM?"

JESUS CHRIST,
THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHE



EMPTY DECEIT



THE TRADITION OF MEN

THE WORD TEACHES THAT THE CHURCH SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (THE BREAD AND THE WINE) ARE TO BE TAKEN BY EVERY BELIEVER AS A SYMBOL OF THE ONCE FOR ALL SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS. COMMUNION IS TO BE TAKEN "IN REMEMBRANCE" OF THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST ON BEHALF OF THE SINS OF THE BELIEVER.

(1Cor.10:16-17, 11:23-32, Jn. 6:53-63, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:19-20)

CATHOLICISM (THE PAPACY) TEACHES THE PRIEST PERFORMING MASS AND ADMINISTERING THE EUCHARIST HAS THE SUPERNATURAL POWER TO BRING DOWN CHRIST AT WILL TO BE SACRIFICED ONCE AGAIN AND BECOMES A LITERAL TRANSUBSTANTIATION OF CHRIST INTO THE BREAD WAFER. THE CUP IS USUALLY WITHHELD FROM CATHOLICS.

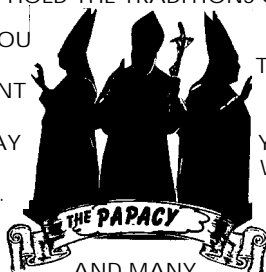
There are more comparisons that could be made, but I believe we have examined a sufficient number to prove this point:

CATHOLICISM DOES NOT PRACTICE ANY CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES THAT WERE GIVEN BY GOD IN HIS WORD. RATHER THEIR DOCTRINES ARE TRADITION-BASED WHICH HOLD AN OPPOSING POSITION TO REVEALED SCRIPTURE. THERE IS NOTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM.

The charge Jesus laid upon the hierarchy of Rabbinical Judaism will also be laid upon the hierarchy of Roman Catholicism:

"...IN VAIN YOU WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.
FOR LAYING ASIDE THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
YOU HOLD THE TRADITIONS OF MEN...

ALL TO WELL YOU
REJECT THE
COMMANDMENT
OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY
KEEP YOUR
TRADITION...



...MAKING
THE WORD OF GOD
OF NO EFFECT
THROUGH
YOUR TRADITIONS
WHICH YOU HAVE
HANDED DOWN.

AND MANY
SUCH THINGS YOU DO."
Mark 7:7-13

"ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION...
 MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION
 WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN."

Mark 7:9-13



RABBINICAL
 JUDAISM
 HAS BEEN
 TOTALLY LEAVENED
 BY TRADITION...

CATHOLICISM
 HAS BEEN
 TOTALLY LEAVENED
 BY TRADITION...

TANTISM
 HAS THE SEEDS
 OF LEAVEN
 SOWN WITHIN
 BY TRADITION...

I express a personal fear that Protestantism (Christianity) has already begun to travel down that same road of self-deception in which cherished traditions eventually become dogmatic beliefs. A very great concern was expressed over

America's love of tradition by French Historian, Amaury de Reincourt in his book, *"The Coming Caesars"*:



"GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME,
 CHERISHED TRADITIONS
 BECOME
 DOGMATIC BELIEFS"

French Historian, Amaury de Reincourt



Although there was a breaking away from the traditions of Catholicism by Martin Luther's proclamation by which Protestantism was officially birthed, large segments of Christianity in America are entrenched in Catholicism's added creeds in the 3rd and 5th century of a Trinity consisting of a mystical form of a "three-in-one God":

**The Constantine
 Creed of
 Catholicism
 (3rd Century)**

BISHOP'S DECREE:
 FATHER AND SON
 DECLARED TO BE
 "ONE GOD"



**The Athanasian
 Creed of
 Catholicism
 (5th Century)**

BISHOP'S DECREE:
 FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT
 DECLARED TO BE
 "ONE GOD"

Have we heard something like this before? Earlier we considered the conflict between "Plurality in Majesty" vs. "Plurality in Unity." Rabbinical Judaism argued, "The Lord our God is one!" Their follow up was, "God has no Son!" Now we have the acknowledgment of a Divine Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but quickly followed with the statement, "Father, Son and Spirit are not three Gods but "one God" that is mystically able to appear as three different personages whenever needed. Really? Where did the apostle Paul ever say such a thing in any of his 13 epistles? How about Peter or John? No apostle endorsed such a concept in any epistle written!

"ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT
THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY KEEP
YOUR TRADITION...
MAKING THE WORD OF GOD
OF NO EFFECT
THROUGH YOUR TRADITION
WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN."

Mark 7:9-13



Satan seeks to corrupt man's ability to see a proper biblical view of who the Almighty is. The trend of such deception reduces a PLURAL Godhead back into a vague mystical concept of a "ONE GOD" image.

The Corrupting Leaven Sown:
THE CHERISHED TRADITION OF "ONE GOD"

RABBINICAL JUDAISM ENDORSES A SINGULAR MONOTHEISTIC <u>"ONE GOD"</u>	CATHOLICISM ENDORSES A DIVINE TRINITY BUT IS REALLY ONLY <u>"ONE GOD"</u>	CHRISTIANITY ENDORSES A DIVINE TRINITY BUT IS REALLY ONLY <u>"ONE GOD"</u>
--	---	--

THE TRADITION OF MEN

The New Testament view of the Almighty is plainly outlined by the Epistles of the Apostles.

Paul, as well as John, present the Almighty, whether in Heaven or on earth, as consisting of a Triune Godhead ("Elohim-the Almighty Godhead").

The Apostles portray the supreme Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as three Divine individual Personages. None of the apostles EVER or ANYWHERE in their epistles confirm the existence of a mystical "Three-in-one God" as introduced by Catholicism.

These concepts were invented in the third and fifth centuries-long after the Scriptures of the New Testament were written!



The Apostle Paul:

The Apostles revealing
THE TRIUNE GODHEAD
Of the Scriptures:



The Apostle John:

THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE

THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE

"...ATTAINING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY OF GOD, BOTH OF THE FATHER AND OF CHRIST.."

Col. 2:2

"...FOR IN HIM (Christ) DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY..."

Col. 2:9

"FOR THROUGH HIM (Christ) WE HAVE ACCESS BY ONE SPIRIT TO THE FATHER."

Eph. 2:18

"THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT; AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.

[are in unison; their testimony coincides].
AND THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS ON EARTH: THE SPIRIT, THE WATER, AND THE BLOOD; AND THESE THREE AGREE AS ONE."

1 John 5:7-8

THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

"CATHOLICISM DOES NOT PRACTICE ANY CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES THAT WERE GIVEN BY GOD IN HIS WORD.

RATHER THEIR DOCTRINES ARE ALL TRADITION-BASED WHICH HOLD AN OPPOSING POSITION TO REVEALED SCRIPTURE. THERE IS NOTHING CHRISTIAN ABOUT CATHOLICISM."

That includes this cherished tradition of a mystical 3-in-one God:



"WE WORSHIP
ONE GOD
IN TRINITY..."

THE FATHER IS GOD, THE SON IS GOD,
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD;
AND YET THEY ARE NOT THREE GODS, BUT ONE GOD...
NONE IS GREATER OR LESS THAN ANOTHER...
THE WHOLE THREE PERSONS ARE COEQUAL"

"THE TRINITY"

(three parts one egg)



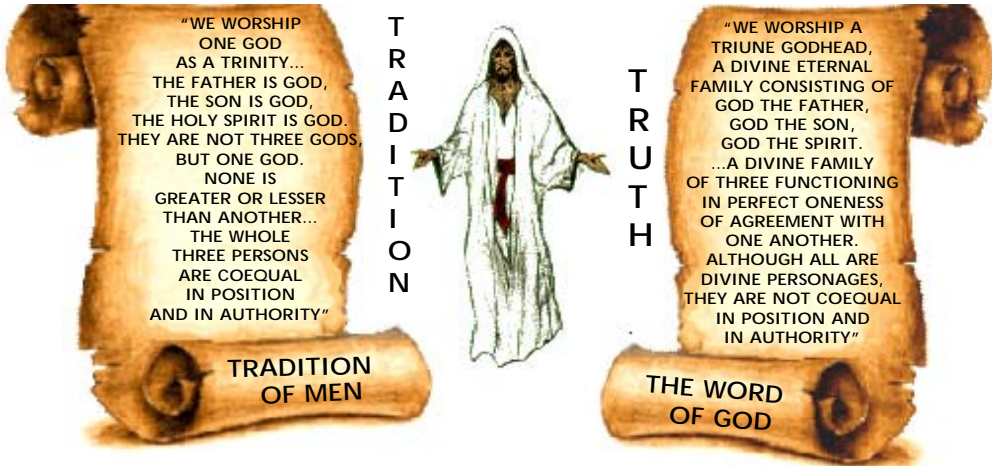
"3-IN-1 GOD"

(the Constantine Creed of Catholicism 3rd Century and the Athanasius Creed of Catholicism 5th Century)

Previously I showed you twenty erroneous doctrinal positions held by Catholicism that are all opposed to what the Scriptures reveal. I summed up this religion of the tradition of men with the sober charge,

"There is nothing Christian about Catholicism."

Are we now to accept (as has much of Christianity) the Catholic tradition pertaining to the very identity of God?



The existence of the Triune Godhead (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is indeed the true teaching of the Scriptures rather than the mystical tradition of a "three-in-one God" as commonly taught today by most Protestant theologians. The true "oneness of God" speaks of a triune Godhead that is in perfect and complete unity with one another. Therefore the Father does not manifest Himself as the Son or as the Holy Spirit! It is not one God manifesting Himself in three identities, but rather three individual personages comprising a Godhead that functions in complete oneness of unity and purpose. The prayer Jesus utters for us as believers, "That they may be one as we are one" (Jn.17:11) makes no sense if the "oneness" of which Jesus speaks refers to a "three-in-one" God. Can we become that kind of oneness? Hardly! However, can we become one in unity and harmony with our will as was Jesus with submission to His Father's will? I say, "Yes we can, if we hold fast to the pattern demonstrated by the Triune Godhead working in "Plurality in Unity." **43**

SELAH! THINK ON THIS!

Dear reader, it is quite ludicrous to think that when the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matt. 17:5), that He was in essence saying, "This is (Me in the role of) My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear (Me) as I speak (as) Him"? If we are indeed to embrace a literal "three-in-one God," then that is what is being conveyed! How is this concept able to make us "one as He is one" with the Father?

In addition, we would have to believe that Jesus, in stating of the Father (which He would really be saying of Himself) things like, "The Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does" (Jn. 5:20). Think about it dear saint! If the Father and the Son are one and the same God, this phrase has no real meaning for us! It would also be meaningless for Jesus to teach us, "I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father who sent Me" (Jn. 5:30), if indeed the Son is in reality the Father! If He is the Father as well as the Son, then of course He would do His will—they are one and the same! Rather, the real lesson being conveyed is that we are being presented with TWO WILLS of two different members of the Godhead that are functioning together in perfect UNITY and ONENESS with one another! Jesus is teaching His disciples how they too can function in unity and oneness! It is a meaningless illustration if the Father and the Son are really one and the same person.

AM I MAKING YOUR HEAD HURT?

Then be encouraged by this needful exhortation from
Evangelist/teacher Charles Grandison Finney:



Charles Grandison Finney
1792-1875

*(Presbyterian minister and leader
in the Second Great Awakening
in the United States.*

*He has been called the
"Father of Old Revivalism.")*

***"LET NO ONE DESPAIR
IN COMMENCING THIS BOOK,
NOR STUMBLE AT THE DEFINITIONS,
THINKING HE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND
SO ABSTRUSE A SUBJECT...
MY BROTHER,
SISTER FRIEND-
READ, STUDY, THINK
TO DEVELOP YOUR POWERS
BY STUDY.
GOD DESIGNED THAT RELIGION
SHOULD REQUIRE THOUGHT,
INTENSE THOUGHT,
AND SHOULD THOROUGHLY DEVELOP
OUR POWERS OF THOUGHT.
THE BIBLE ITSELF IS WRITTEN IN
A STYLE SO CONDENSED AS TO REQUIRE
MUCH INTENSE STUDY.
MANY KNOW NOTHING
OF THE BIBLE OR OF RELIGION,
BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT THINK AND STUDY.
I DO NOT PRETEND TO
SO EXPLAIN THEOLOGY AS TO
DISPENSE WITH THE
LABOR OF THINKING."***

(SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY-
PREFACE, PAGE 9- CHARLES FINNEY)

Even the Scriptures portray an intense effort is required in diligently searching out what is the true knowledge of the Almighty:

"MY SON,
 IF YOU **RECEIVE** MY WORDS,
 AND **TREASURE** MY COMMANDS
 WITHIN YOU,
 SO THAT YOU **INCLINE**
 YOUR EAR TO WISDOM,
 AND **APPLY** YOUR HEART
 TO UNDERSTANDING;
 YES, IF YOU
CRY OUT FOR DISCERNMENT,
 AND **LIFT UP** YOUR VOICE
 FOR UNDERSTANDING,
 IF YOU **SEEK** HER AS SILVER,
 AND **SEARCH** FOR HER
 AS FOR HIDDEN TREASURES;
THEN
 YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
 THE FEAR OF THE LORD,
 AND
FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD."

Prov. 2:1-3



RECEIVE...
TREASURE...
INCLINE...
APPLY...
CRY OUT...
LIFT UP...
SEEK...
SEARCH...



Proverbs Chapter Two above uses eight action-filled verbs in describing what is required from a believer seeking the infinite knowledge of the Almighty. We live in such times that everything pertaining to Him has been over-simplified. We think all we need to do is buy the latest popular edition of "God for Dummies" to dumb-down the infinite knowledge of the Almighty so that we don't need to "Receive, treasure, incline, apply, cry out, lift up, seek, search" to find the infinite knowledge of the Almighty. Revivalist Leonard Ravenhill often lamented over the seemingly pitiful level of the knowledge of the Almighty held by today's professing Theologians.



*"It is true
 that there
 are many
 roads
 leading
 into Hell,
 know also
 that there
 are
 NONE
 leading
 out"*



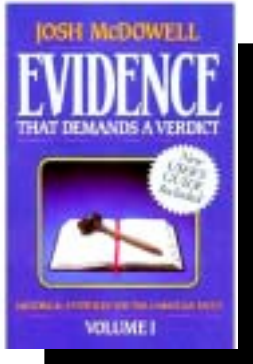
Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard was prolific with his multitude of British pithy quotes. I have always liked this one about the low-level of content expressed by modern-day theologians:

*"Gone are the quality days of old...
 men who penned great volumes
 of Hardback Theology.
 ...men like Charles Finney,
 William Gurnall and Andrew Murray.
 Alas, their modern-day replacements
 produce a cheap
 Paperback version of Theology,
 little mini-sermonettes only capable of
 producing mini-Christianettes...
 ...much of which I must say,
 is not worth the paper
 it is printed on."*

Leonard Ravenhill

EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT



Fifty years ago Josh McDowell wrote this confrontational classic book in which he sought to prove within a legal court of Law the Resurrection of Christ. His premise was that there is enough plain evidence in the Scriptures to prove in a court of Law that Christ rose from the dead. Josh toured the nation's secular colleges holding live debates in which he presented all the evidence to support his bold claim. Sadly, I doubt if in today's liberal, humanistic colleges he would even be allowed to speak. Liberal colleges today have become known as places of "burnings" rather than places of "learning."

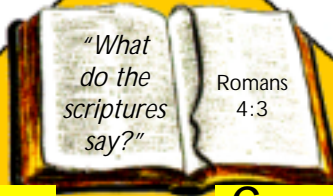
The likes of Josh McDowell's Christian-based presentations would not be tolerated in today's secular liberal colleges even though history will affirm that the likes of Harvard, Yale and Princeton all have in their original constitutional statements of their Reason for Being that these colleges were initially created to further promote the teachings first instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The evidence that we shall present in the remainder of this book as to the existence of "Elohim-the Almighty Godhead" will be based solely upon these three principles that govern properly interpreting what is recorded in "The Word of Truth", the inspired Scriptures:

"BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD, A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH."

2 Tim 2:15-16

1. CONTEXT



2. COMPARE

"NOT AS MAN'S WISDOM TEACHES BUT AS THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES COMPARING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL."

1 Cor 2:12-14

3. CONFIRM

"BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED."

2 Cor 13:1-2

THE THREEFOLD CORD PRINCIPLE



Bible teacher Derek Prince told the story of a rope maker who was in his audience listening as he taught about the concept of the strength of “a three-fold cord.” Derek was likening the three-fold cord to the Triune Godhead of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. After the teaching the rope maker came up and told Derek that a three stranded rope was the strongest rope that could be made because all three separate strands are tightly intertwined together and closely touch one another making it a three stranded rope that cannot be easily broken. (Ecc. 4:12).

What a vivid illustration this becomes of the Almighty in which three separate Divine Personages are intertwined together as a Triune Godhead of manifested strength, **“PLURALITY IN UNITY”!**

A Triune Godhead united together in oneness of purpose!



- 1 THE ALMIGHTY FATHER...
- 2 THE ALMIGHTY SON...
- 3 THE ALMIGHTY SPIRIT...

~ ELOHIM ~
“Plurality in Unity”

This Divine Godhead of Elohim is NOT “one God” physically, but rather consists of Three Divine Personages forming a Divine Family of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all three functioning together as one in unity and purpose!

In the next Chapter yet to be written, Lord willing and Lord enabling, I will begin to present the overwhelming evidence in Scripture of the One generically labeled “God” but in essence, is more specifically revealed as

“ELOHIM, THE ALMIGHTY GODHEAD.”

It is a story that begins in the opening verse of Genesis and carries right through the end of the Book of Revelation. “ELOHIM” is the specific Name that the Almighty chose to identify His plural personage 2,197 times in Scripture.

From the next Chapter on we shall identify the Almighty by His specific chosen Divine Triune Name, that of “Elohim-the Almighty Godhead”, a threefold cord functioning in “Plurality in Unity.” It is the unveiling of the specific working of the Divine Father, His Divine Son, and His Divine Holy Spirit.

אלהים "ELOHIM"

Strong's Number H430-Hebrew אֱלֹהִים (*ʾĕlōhîm*).

"Elohim", is a word repeated 2,197 times in the Old Testament Hebrew scriptures. It is the most widely used name for the depiction of "God" in those scriptures. "Elohim", being a very strong masculine plural noun in Hebrew, plainly means "Godhead." However, it is not translated into English with such a plural emphasis. Sadly, the plural Hebrew noun "Elohim" ("Godhead") is consistently presented as being a singular identity (God) in all of our English translations.

Let us consider the very first use of "Elohim" (Godhead) in the opening verse of the Bible. How impacting would it be on our theology if that opening statement was more faithfully translated as "Godhead" (Elohim):

"In the beginning the Godhead (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth." Gen. 1:1

The next verse of Genesis contains the second use of "Elohim" which should also be translated as "Godhead" (Elohim). In this verse we are introduced to the third person of the Godhead who was also active in the creation account:

"the Spirit of the Godhead (Elohim) was hovering over the face of the waters." Gen. 1:2

We are only two verses into the Bible and we already have two Divine persons of the Godhead revealed under the name "Elohim-the Godhead." However, there is even more revelation to come. In verse 26 we find the third use of "Elohim" in Genesis:

*"Then the Godhead (Elohim) said,
"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." Gen. 1:26*

The plural Godhead (Elohim) is clearly not stated to be a singular "God" but rather several plural expressions of "the Godhead" ("Elohim") are described as "Let US make man in OUR image and according to OUR likeness." That is a plural Godhead speaking, is it not? In context this is the Divine Godhead of all creation identifying itself clearly with a plural use of "US and OUR" image and likeness.

Not only does "Elohim" permeate the Old Testament as a plural expression of the Godhead, but the New Testament teachings of the apostle Paul such as are displayed on the cover of this book reveal that he too readily endorsed the concept of a plural triune Godhead abiding presently in Heaven. In those passages Paul presents a plural Godhead consisting of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is the triune (plural) Divine Family of God as found in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament.

In this book I seek to establish that this Divine Family of "Elohim" (the Godhead) has as its main priority the creation of a family of God on earth (the children of God) via the new birth experience in Christ becoming an expression of "the family of God" on earth. The apostle John elaborates on this revelation:

*"BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD!
...BELOVED, NOW WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD; AND IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED
WHAT WE SHALL BE, BUT WE KNOW THAT WHEN HE IS REVEALED, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM,
FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS. AND EVERYONE WHO HAS THIS HOPE IN HIM
PURIFIES HIMSELF, JUST AS HE IS PURE." 1 John 3:1-3*