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JESUS IS GOD

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Over the last number of years, maybe nine years now, God has been teaching us and revealing to us: Who Jesus is! It began with a fresh and deeper understanding that Jesus is the Christ and this means that Jesus is the Anointed King. This means that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament and expected by many in Israel at the time of His appearance in the flesh. Then the Holy Spirit began to open to us the *"knowledge of the Son of God"* (Eph.4:13).

The preaching and teaching of Jesus the Christ (Acts 5:42) was amazing. We all learned that His name is not 'Jesus Christ', but His name is Jesus [Hebrew - Yeshua] and that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed King, the heir of all things.

The preaching and teaching of the knowledge of the Son of God was even more amazing as we came to understand that calling Jesus the Son of God is actually saying that Jesus is *"God manifest in the flesh"* (1Tim.3:16, Jn.1:1 & 14).

This unfolding revelation of who Jesus is according to the Scriptures continues to inspire and strengthen and bless us and all who hear this message of the King of the kingdom and the name of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God (Matt.16:16-18; Heb.1:1-13).

Jesus said to the Jews who were wanting to kill Him, *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me"* John 5:39. We have been given grace to find Jesus in all the Scriptures and this is a wonderful grace!

A Saviour who is Christ the Lord

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem the angel told the shepherds *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ [Messiah] the Lord"* Luke 2:11. This child who was born was said to be the One:

- who would be 'the Saviour';
- who was 'the Christ/Messiah' being born, that is the promised King;
- this One would be the Lord, the Supreme Ruler, the One with all authority

God made Jesus, both Lord and Christ

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached proving that *"this Jesus God has raised up"* (Acts 2:32), was actually the Christ and that He had been raised to *"sit on His throne"* (v.30). Then Peter quoted from Psalm 110:1, *"YHWH said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool"* (Acts 2:34-35).

Peter went on to declare to the multitudes gathered there on the day of Pentecost, *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ"* Acts 2:36. Jesus of Nazareth is declared to be both the Lord and the Messiah [Christ]. We want to discover more about both these titles of office that Jesus is given: He is declared to be both Lord and Christ by God.

David called his son, 'Lord'

Earlier in **Matthew 22:42-45** Jesus had asked the Pharisees,
"What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?"
They said to Him, 'The Son of David'.
He said to them, 'How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord', saying:
YHWH said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies Your footstool?
If David then calls Him 'Lord', how is He his Son?'"

This Psalm is Messianic in that it clearly speaks of the Messiah being the Lord, the one who would occupy the throne and judge kings and nations and heads of governments (**Ps.110:5-6**). The Lord in this Psalm is the Messiah and He would be the one who will judge.

The Lord is the sovereign ruler and almighty master

Jesus was making the point that the Messiah is the Lord. The Hebrew word is *adon* and means as a verb: *to rule*; as a noun: *sovereign, a controller [human or divine]*. This word basically means *lord or master*. When referring to God it signifies His position as the one who has authority, as a Being who is sovereign ruler and almighty master. Therefore we can say that the One spoken to by YHWH in **Psalm 110:1** is the Lord. This One who is Lord is the Sovereign ruler and Almighty master.

Jesus is the Christ

When Jesus asked the disciples, *"Who do you say that I am?"*(**Matt.16:15**). Simon Peter then answered and said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"* (**Matt.16:16**). By the revelation of the Father (**v.17**), Peter spoke two things of Jesus: You are the Christ [Messiah], and, You are the Son of the Living God.

Understanding that the name of God is not LORD

The Old Testament teaches that YAHWEH is the Lord [Adonai]. Adonai is an extension of the word '*adon*' [see above] and 'Adonai' is a title used only in reference to the glorious Lord in all of His attributes and powers. The Jews used this title to refer to God's name as they did not generally use God's name in the later centuries prior to Jesus coming in the flesh.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for Lord is *kurios* {SC # Gr. 2962} and means 'owner, master, controller, one in authority'. Some commentators suggest that Kurios is the Greek title referring to YAHWEH [YHWH] in the Old Testament, as well as having the straightforward meaning of Lord or master. Normally in the English translation, YHWH is translated as LORD. In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament before Christ, this word Kurios is used as the given name of God.

In the Old Testament the name of the Eternal God has not generally been translated in English Bibles, but the title LORD has been used, written in capital letters. In the Bibles of other languages the name of God has been translated in a form of the name YEHOUAH or JEHOVAH. In the Swahili Bible they have used the word BWANA. The use of Bwana and the use of Lord in capitals is very bad translation as it does not attempt to translate the Hebrew name of God, which appears in English from the Hebrew manuscript as YHWH.

When Peter declared: ***“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”*** v.36, he was attributing **full Godhead** to Jesus. What Peter has proven is that the promised Messiah of the Old Testament is Jesus of Nazareth. He has been declared by God to be ***“both Lord and Christ.”*** Peter is not only declaring Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah expected to come, but he is also declaring Jesus to be the Lord of all. Peter was attributing the Lordship of YHWH God in the Old Testament to Jesus in the New Testament. It was this message that brought the conviction and the conversion of 3000 Jews on that day.

Peter the apostle grew up knowing many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, and his whole generation was caught up in messianic fervour. Messiah was expected to come at that time. We know from **John 1** that Peter’s brother, Andrew, after he had found Jesus, straightaway went and got Peter, and told him ***“we have found the Messiah”*** (Jn.1:41). Philip did the same thing: he went and told Nathaniel and brought him to Jesus (v.45).

The name of Jesus

Jesus, the name, is from the Greek *Iesous*, pronounced *Yay-soos* SC #2424. This is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew *Yeshua* meaning ‘He shall save’ and Yeshua is the shorter form of *Yehowshuwa* [or *Yehowshua*] pronounced *Yeh-ho-shoo-ah*, which means ‘Yahweh is salvation’, {Word wealth - New SFLB p.1666}. The name of Jesus means YAHWEH will save, or YAHWEH saves.

The full literal meaning of Jesus is ***“Yahweh is Salvation”***. Every time we say the name of Jesus, what are we saying? We are saying, ***“Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament who revealed His name to Moses in the burning bush, is our salvation”!***

GOD’S PERSONAL NAME

God has always been a personal God and from **Genesis 2:4** [***“the LORD God”***] He has been known by His personal name. God who is Spirit (**Jn.4:24**) has created us in His own image and likeness (**Gen.1:26-27**). In **Genesis 2** from **verse 4** God is personally involved in creating the man and preparing the garden. He is identified as LORD God [in the Authorised version and in most English Bible translations], which in Hebrew is YHWH Elohim, {appearing 11 times in **Gen.2**}.

God was personally involved in the creation of man and was **revealed in a form in whose image man was created**. God ***‘walked in the garden’*** (**Gen.3:8**).

God revealed his name to Moses

In **Exodus 3:14**, ***“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’. Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM [YHWH] has sent me to you.’”***

The divine name of God, YHWH, only appears in the Bible. Strong’s Concordance gives its meaning as *‘the self Existent or Eternal’* and Strong’s writes the name as **Yehovah**.

Adonay means Lord

Most English translators have refused to translate the name of God. They have translated the Hebrew name of God as LORD, which is not a name at all. The Hebrew word for ‘lord’ in the Old Testament is *adonai*. Lord is the correct translation of *adonai*. Apparently, the religious Jews had stopped calling God by His personal name and instead referred to Him

as ADONAY, meaning Lord. What this reveals is that they did not know Him personally as the fathers and the prophets had known Him, that is, by His revealed name.

An unfortunate tradition

Unfortunately, both the translators of the Septuagint [Old Testament in Greek] and English translators followed this tradition [an unbiblical tradition]. The Greek translators called Him *Kurios* and the English translators called Him LORD, and the Swahili Bible in East Africa calls Him BWANA, which in colonial days meant 'boss'.

A tetragrammaton

God's name is not LORD. His name is Yahweh or Yahovah [Jehovah], which means "I AM". The Hebrew letters YHWH for the Name is called a tetragrammaton; there are no vowels as such, making the pronunciation difficult. However this is not a valid reason for changing the translation totally.

A deeper revelation of the Name

Many have been confused because of the Scriptures in **Exodus 6:2-3** when God said to Moses, *"God spoke to Moses and said to him: 'I YHWH. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name YHWH [LORD] I was not known to them.'"* Is this meant to mean that the patriarchs did not know God by His name? No, the Scriptural record is clear: even Adam knew God by His personal name, but the fathers did not understand the full expression and application of that revealed name which would bring about deliverance to a whole nation of their descendants hundreds of years later.

"Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD [YHWH] God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations' Ex.3:15. When God first revealed His name to Moses it was so that the elders of Israel in Egypt would receive Moses when he came in the name that the patriarchs knew Him by.

"Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD [YHWH] God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, 'I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land'" Ex.3:16-17. The elders of Israel knew God's name but like their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they did not know the revelation of the name that Moses was now bringing to them.

What does I AM mean?

- It means He is everything that is;
- it means He is the Eternal One;
- it means He is the self existent one;
- it means He is life;
- it means He is Light,
- He is the Creator;
- He is everything.

When God says “I AM”, it means that **He is**. **Hebrews 11:6** illustrates this, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

There is nothing lacking in God; there is nothing more that should be in God, that isn't in God. There is nothing in God that shouldn't be in God. He is God, and He reveals Himself as “I AM”.

“I am He, before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me” Isa.43:10.

His name is Wonderful

When Manoah, the father of Samson, asked the Angel of Yahweh, *“What is Your Name?”* He answered and said, *“Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?”* (**Jud.13:17-18**) The name of God is Wonderful.

Isaiah prophesied of Messiah in **Isaiah 9:6**, *“And His name will be called*

- *Wonderful,*
- *Counsellor,*
- *Mighty God,*
- *Everlasting Father,*
- *Prince of Peace”*

Isaiah attributes all of these names of God to the Messiah, Jesus. How awesome is that!

From Old Testament to New

God's name, His personal name, is very important. We understand the name of the Lord in the New Testament is the name of Jesus, or the equivalent name in each language. Jesus is named after His Father, the name Yahweh of the Old Testament. Therefore the Scripture that says *“God also has highly exalted Him [speaking of Jesus] and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus”* (**Phil.2:9-10a**), begins to make ultimate sense.

The name above all names

How could the name of Jesus be above the name of Yahweh in the Old Testament? It could not be. It is because **the name of Jesus is the name of Yahweh**; therefore it makes sense. It is precisely because *“God was in Christ”* (**2 Cor.5:19**), and in Christ Jesus our Lord *“dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (**Col.2:9**), that we come to realize that the name of Jesus is the name of God; that God is fully represented and revealed in that Name.

John 1:14 says, *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The ‘Word’ *“was in the beginning with God”* (v2).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word [this is the literal from the Greek]” (v.1)

And what is his Name? Yeshua or Jesus, and what does Yeshua mean – ‘Yahweh is our salvation’. The God of the Old Testament became flesh and lived among us!

This is the mystery of Godliness! 1Tim.3:16

JESUS IS THE 'I AM'

Jesus identified Himself as the 'I AM' many times in the Gospels.

In **John's** gospel there are seven 'I am' sayings. We know when the Greek is referring to the Eternal I AM, because two Greek words are used:

I AM - in Greek "*Ego Eimi*" - literally "**I, I AM**"

- when Jesus says "*Ego Eimi*" He is saying He is the **I AM**

- when just saying "*Eimi*" it means "**I am**", but with "**Ego**" added, it places emphasis -

Jesus says in many places "*Ego Eimi*" meaning emphatically that Jesus is **the I AM Himself**

"Ego" #1473 - primary noun of first person meaning "I" - only used when there is emphasis, emphatic

"Eimi" #1510 - "to be" - to exist, to happen, to be present, "I exist" used only when emphatic. Eimi itself means I am. When the Greek puts Ego Eimi together, it is literally I, I AM. This is how we know that Jesus is revealing Himself to be the Great I AM.

'Ego Eimi' appears in the seven compound sayings of Jesus in the book of **John**:

- I am the bread of life (**6:48**)
- I am the light of the world (**9:5**)
- I am the door of the sheep (**10:7**)
- I am the Good Shepherd (**10:11**)
- I am the resurrection and the life (**11:25**)
- I am the way, the truth and the life (**14:6**)
- I am the true vine (**15:1**)

All of these sayings are expressing absolutes: a true application of the name of Yahweh showing that Jesus is GOD, absolute and complete.

Other important **I AM** sayings in the New Testament

John 8:58 Jesus said, "*Before Abraham was, I AM*"

The people were giving Jesus trouble

v.52 - they even accused Jesus of having a demon

v.53 - who do You make Yourself out to be?

v.59 - why did they pick up stones to stone Him? In their view He was blaspheming - calling Himself **I AM**. **Jesus said He was the I AM**

John 8:24 "*If you do not believe that I AM [this is the literal] you will die in your sins.*"

{The "*He*" in italics is put there by English translators of Bible, read it without the "He".}

We must believe that Jesus is **I AM** in order to have our sins taken away. "**Jesus**" means "*He will save His people from their sins*" (**Matt.1:21**). **Jesus, the "I AM, saves us"**.

Then **Matthew** quotes from **Isaiah 7:14**, telling us that Jesus is "**Immanuel**", translated, **God with us**. If you believe that Jesus is the I AM in the flesh, you will be saved from your sins

John 8:28 "*when you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM*"

John 18:2-6 Judas and officers went to arrest Jesus. Jesus said "Whom do you seek?" They answered "Jesus the Nazarene". "*Jesus said to them, I AM*" (**v.5**). [Please note the '*He*' is in italics, meaning it is not in the original manuscript - it has been added].

They fell to the ground when Jesus said "**I AM**". Why did they fall to the ground? Because for a moment Jesus was revealed to be the great I AM. Again Jesus said "I have told you **I AM**"

There are many more clear I AM sayings of Jesus, and there are many more references in the New Testament clearly revealing that Jesus the Christ is God manifest in the flesh; that He is YEHOVAH [the God who revealed Himself in the Old Testament] come in the flesh.

Who is Jesus? He is God!
