

## ONE GOD

**"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"** Exodus 20:3. The verse in Deuteronomy 5:7 is identical to the previous verse with the exception of using the word **"none"** other than **"no"**. This command is clear that no man or thing of this world should be put ahead of the God. **"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."** (Exodus 20:4, 5a). God is very clear in His expectation of how his creatures, who are created in His image (i.e. with the power of being able to reason by logic, if desiring to do so and create), should follow the path of morality and love. However, it is evident that mankind does not want to follow the Spirit of the Father who created him, but rather to follow the spirit of God's beguiling adversary. We being God's creatures should be careful of the spirit we serve, **"for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God."** (Exodus 20:5). Our heavenly Father does not accept his created beings making and then giving worship and adoration to their own physical works or imaginary ideas. Exodus 20:3 to 5 and Deuteronomy 5:7 to 9 is plainly telling us that there is but ONE God, the Father and nothing in His creation must be put before Him.

**"Unto thee it was shown, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him ... Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else."** Deuteronomy 4:35, 39. Close attention should be given to the quote "consider it in thine heart", that is, in the mind. As we know, in ancient times, the heart was believed to be the center of thought, and even today expressions are still used implying the heart is the center of all motivation such as "have a heart", "they have a big heart" or "it comes straight from the heart". The word "lord" is capitalized in these verses, therefore, God's name or the tetragrammaton (ie. "word of four letters") was being used here -- **"YHVH [Yahveh] he is God"**. Look into the following words and "consider" them as instructed, **"he IS God"**, **"there IS none else"**, of which the latter text is repeated twice, once in each verse.

From Isaiah 44:6,8, we read: **"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts, I am the first, and I am the last, and beside me there is no God ... Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."** Again, we as Christians should give close consideration of what is actually being said. Firstly, it is written of God saying that there is no God beside him. Then it is written of him saying that the children of Israel are His witnesses that there is but ONE God. And even He, God, knows not of any other God. Then why did YHVH (God) use the term "his redeemer"? God often speaks of his Word, or the essence of his Will, as going forth, as if it were a separate entity, but it is not so. The Spirit of God is our redeemer and Savior given it has the power to save us if we choose to follow God's Will. This same Spirit of truth, the Word of God, was manifested into the flesh, namely, the man Jesus. Therefore, those who have spiritual understanding are His, and are the Father's witnesses to know that though Jesus became the Christ of God, the living Word came from the essence of God, thus Jesus became the Son of God through the manifestation of God's Word in him making Jesus one in Spirit with God, although that does not make Jesus, God the Father. All Christians should yearn for the day that we, too, shall be one with God in Spirit and Truth, we in Him, by submission to His Will, and He in us that we may be made a new people in His image, through obedience.

Along that same line of thinking: **"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory WHICH THOU GAVEST ME I have given them; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me..."** John 17:21 to 23a. Though this text spoken by Jesus is used by people to support their belief that Jesus is God, it actually disproves that claim. Note that Jesus makes two very important remarks: 1) he shows his subservient position to God [YHVH]; and 2) in spirit, he is one with God. He continuously calls YHVH, Father, throughout the verses (read to verse twenty six), and the clarifies that the glory he contained was given and came forth from the Father and was not contained through his own means or glory. Going back to Isaiah 44: 6 and 8 which we read earlier, we know when God says He is the first and the last (or the Alpha and the Omega), He is saying there is none before and none after Him, for He is the beginning of all things and the ending of all things known to us. Isaiah 43:10b, 11, 12b, 13: **"... understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior... Therefore, ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. Yea, before the day was I am he, and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?"** God is saying that even before there was a world, He existed, and there was no one before Him that could have formed Him, and neither can there be after, for He has always existed even before there was a "day". With God, there is no time. **"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the LORD as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day."** II Peter 3:8; **"For a thousand years in thy sight are**

*but as yesterday when it is past...*" Psalm 90:4. *"Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."* Psalm 139:12. We must understand that God our Father is not bound to the cycle of time as his created creatures. As God said, **"I am he"**, signifying He is the beginning of all things and is ever-existent.

The term "Holy One" is often used in scripture in reference to God, although those of us who are Gentiles have more than likely heard it expressed only in reference to Jesus. However, it was frequently used by the Hebrews in the Old Testament in reference to God, but in Psalms 89:18 to 20, the term is even used for King David: *"For the LORD is our defence, and the Holy One of Israel is our king. Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him."* The term was also used in reference to other people. For that reason, the term cannot in any way point to the oneness of God. So the words **"the Holy One"** will not be written about here, neither will the words **"Rock"** and **"Savior"**, even though God is our Rock and Savior through and by His Son, Jesus the Christ. The words **"Holy One"** are used in defining more than just the Father and furthermore, they do not expressly prove the Oneness of God by scriptural texts.

*"That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else."* I Kings 8:60; *"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is none else."* Isaiah 45:18; *"O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears."* I Chronicles 17:20; *"Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us?.."* Malachi 2:10; *"There is none holy as the LORD; for there is none beside thee; neither is there any rock like our God."* I Samuel 2:2. Most of the biblical texts we have written up to now have come from the Old Testament and there is a reason for this. But first notice how the five texts in this paragraph speak of there being only **ONE** God. The writers of these five texts are the prophets Jeremiah (it is assumed he wrote the books of Kings, with the exception of the last chapter), Isaiah, Ezra, Malachi, and Samuel (note that the books of I and II Samuel are credited to Samuel, but it is very unlikely that he is the author of these books). The writers of the texts written previous to the five above were Moses and David, of which each author gave evidence in their belief in **ONE** God. There was no other God to them but YHVH. Before we leave the books of the Old Testament, we must recognize the truth that the Hebrews believed in only **ONE** supreme God and there was no other. As for the Messiah, the Anointed of God, the Hebrews believed he would come from the seed of David, and that he would be their deliverer from all their foes, and that he shall be their Holy One from God. But never did the Hebrews say the anointed is the God, YHVH. Nor did the Hebrews ever believe in a "dual God" system. Man seeks a God that their eyes can see, just as the Hebrews of old always wanted a God of flesh, wood, gold, or stone to worship and many times abandoned the spiritual, invisible God. There are those within the Churches of God that are even flirting with the ideology that there are two Gods supreme. But let us not be deceived for there is only **ONE** God and one Christ, the man Jesus of Nazareth. There are many texts in the Old Testament showing and pointing to God as being the one and only Creator and there being no other. Only a few of the texts pointing to the one God has been used in this writing.

Moving onto verses from the New Testament, the first book we will look into is John. It is a book that has caused much controversy over John's deep remarks regarding "the Word", "the Light", and "the Christ", which are all found in chapter one. Portions of John's writings (e.g. 1 John 5:7), have been misquoted by religious groups who advocate Jesus is God. The majority of these people don't seem to grasp the oneness that every Christian strives to achieve with God through Jesus. The gospel of John speaks of Jesus' oneness with God. It is achieved through the Spirit of God, whose Word of truth, as previously stated, was manifested in the flesh in Jesus, the Christ of God, His Son, through his oneness in the Father's Word. This portion of scripture points out the oneness that we also can attain with God by the Holy Spirit, and that is a uniting with God in the keeping of His Living Word. The subjects of the Christ, the Word, and the Spirit are discussed in other writings, so we will return to the matter of the One God.

Following are a few excerpts from Paul's writings of his belief in one God: *"Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also. Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through the faith."* Romans 3:29, 30a; *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* 1 Timothy 2:5; *"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."* 1 Timothy 1:17; *"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all."* Ephesians 4:6; *"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God, but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth (as there be gods many and lords many.) But to us there is but one*

***God, the Father, of whom are all things and we in him: and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.***" 1 Corinthians 8:4 to 6. When Paul wrote his letter to the Church of God at Corinth, he made it quite clear that he knows and believes in only one God, and states in the affirmative that there is NONE OTHER. He further writes to the Christian believers that there is but ONE GOD, the Father and further asserts in his letter that there is only one Messiah of God, the Lord Jesus. Paul certainly believed the Father (YHVH) as ONE entity and the Lord Jesus as another entity, but one in Spirit. This is why Paul always began his letters of greetings in the name of two separate identities. Paul does, in a sense, warn us of the many false gods and prophet messiahs that will arise in the world, but Christians know they are nothing.

The book of James was written by the brother of Jesus. ***"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James..."*** Mark 6:3. James had presided at the first council meeting of the Church of God, which was held at the mother church in Jerusalem. Some Bible scholars say it occurred in the year 44 A.D., however, the exact date is not known, but we do know it was close to this date. Jesus' brother, James, in writing to the believers in the Christ, wrote the following words: ***"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble."*** This verse from James 2:19 was just after James was expressing that a person's faith without its evident works is not a true believer and he points out that the true children of God believe that there is ONE God, and they do well in believing this teaching, for the angels who rebelled against God, also know there is ONE God, and they tremble at the name of the ONE God of the universe. The important point made by James is that the disciples of Christ believe in one God, and James, in making this point, shows he believed in one God and no other.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all wrote of Jesus using the same following words, indicating by his words that he, Jesus, was not God, the Father [YHVH]. When a rich ruler addressed Jesus by the term "Good Master" he said the following: ***"And Jesus said unto him, why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God."*** Mark 10:18. Read also Matthew 19:17 and Luke 18:19. Jesus was not implying to the rich ruler that he was of a bad character, but in comparison with the supreme deity's goodness, there is no equal. Why did Jesus make this reply? Many biblical scholars have come up with numerous possible explanations, but none are strongly supported. However, we can assume with a greater degree of certainty that Jesus was saying that in comparison to the Father's goodness, there is none that can match His righteousness. The point we want to make evident from these verses is that Jesus, the very Christ of God, stresses there is but one Father, that is, God. Another important remark said by Jesus of Nazareth is found in Matthew 23:9: ***"And call no man your father upon the earth: for ONE is your Father, which is in heaven."*** In all probability, Jesus was not referring to a paternal father but was making reference to the practice of people of authority or importance being given the title 'father'. In the Roman and Greek society, teachers were sometimes called 'father' by their students. Jesus must have thought the title had become too common place. In God, Jesus saw YHVH as the only author, originator and maker of all things. God is our Father, being our begetter. A man procreates life with a woman by the seed of life, but God is the one Father of all life and all authority, therefore, it is not befitting that men who have authority over his fellow man, should be called father, for they are not the originators of their own anatomy. ***"For ONE is YOUR Father, which is in heaven."*** People may not realize that Jesus, by the making of this type of statement, is declaring by his own mouth his acceptance of one Father or maker of the world.

Jesus, after forty days of fasting, was tempted by the devil, but he did not yield to the temptations. He, Jesus, concluded his answers to Satan with the words ***"Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve."*** Matthew 4:10 – see also Luke 4:8. Jesus was not speaking of himself in this verse. The anointed of God is telling us that there is only one that we should worship and serve; we can only do this service to God by knowing His Will, and by abiding in the Word of God, which is manifested in the teachings of His Christ. There are some churches which say the verses from Matthew 4:7 and Luke 4:12 shows Jesus speaking of himself as being God: ***"And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."*** It is really surprising how people can distort a quote to try and make it appear to coincide with their personal interpretation of scripture. Before responding to the supposition that Jesus was speaking of himself as God, let's get a more complete perspective by reading a few texts of Jesus' temptations from chapter four in Matthew. Verse three: ***"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*** Now read verse six ***"And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down..."*** Lastly, read verses eight and nine: ***"Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."*** The truth that comes out in this matter is that if the Son had submitted to any of Satan's requests, then he, Jesus, would have succumbed to the commands of Satan, and would not be the Son of God. The Son had to face the trials of temptations after his baptism, but Jesus knew that if he yielded to the temptations of Satan, he would have brought his Father into temptation, because in order to save his beloved Son, God would have been manipulated by Satan's temptations of Jesus. Would God have

intervened if Jesus had yielded to Satan's commands? Would Jesus have been ministered unto by the angels? These are hypothetical questions that do not warrant answering as we can not know what would have happened. The important truth of the matter is Jesus had the strength of faith even though he hungered. The Spirit of God was with him, therefore, he could see the inner works of Satan and that he should not yield to temptation. Jesus had this to say of the Father: "***Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.***" Jesus was too wise not to know that if he did obey the wishes of Satan, he would be serving him and not God, his Father. Jesus makes it quite clear, as he had done through all his sayings "***and him only shalt thou serve.***" When Satan asked Jesus to worship him for all the kingdoms of the world, Jesus answered that there is only one Lord God.

Now let's read about the scribe (lawyer) and his interaction with Jesus: "***And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.***" Mark 12:28-32. Read also Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28, and Deuteronomy 6:4, 5. Jesus points out again that there is only one God and quotes the above verses from Deuteronomy. The lawyer, when he heard Jesus' answer, replied that Jesus had spoken the truth, for there is only one God and none other. Jesus never said in any of his utterings that he was God. Jesus never made himself to sit equal upon God's throne, even though through being the Christ, the Spirit of God's Word dwelled within him, making him one with God by the manifestation of God's Word in him. This is the oneness that we all should strive to achieve just as Paul also worked to achieve, to be one in the Father through the Christ. Let us not believe falsehoods and fantasies. Jesus always spoke of one God, and he, Jesus, always served His Father (and mine also) obediently and with love. Let us remember and not forget all the words that have come out of the mouth of Jesus declaring the one and only God.

Read I Corinthians 15:20 to 28: "***But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.***" We who are Christ's have no problem understanding Revelations 19:6, when having read the previous verses from I Corinthians: "***And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.***" The Son, Jesus, is not as great as his Father, YHVH, and let us not forget after all we have read that Jesus never once referred to himself as God Omnipotent or made himself as an equal with God in terms of reverence, with the exception of God's Spirit being manifested in him, or the Word of truth making him one in spirit with the Father. We Christians, strive to have that same Spirit of God, the Word, which the Son possesses, to also be manifested in us through the Christ. Who, then, has spread the false doctrine that there is a dual or triad seated throne? It is man, who has invented these erroneous and dangerous doctrines; dangerous in that in its acceptance, we lose eternal life for there is only Father, which is Christ's Father, your Father and my Father. Remember these two verses: "***And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him, that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.***" I Corinthians 15:28: and, "***Thou believest that there is ONE GOD; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble.***" James 2:19.

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