

“The Shema”

By: Ener Cabangis

“[37] If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. [38] BUT IF I DO, THOUGH YE BELIEVE NOT ME, BELIEVE THE WORKS: that ye may know, and believe, THAT THE FATHER IS IN ME, AND I IN HIM.” “I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE.” (John 10:37,38, 30)

Exactly what did Jesus mean by saying this?

“[17] But Jesus answered them, MY FATHER WORKETH HITHERTO, AND I WORK. [18] Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, MAKING HIMSELF ‘EQUAL WITH GOD.’” (John 5:17,18)

“I and my Father are one (John 10:30)...

The strong denunciation of the Pharisees against Jesus was, ‘Thou, being a man, makest thyself God’ (John 10:33), and for this reason they sought to stone Him. CHRIST DID NOT APOLOGIZE FOR THIS SUPPOSED ASSUMPTION ON HIS PART. HE DID NOT SAY TO HIS ACCUSERS, ‘YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME; I AM NOT GOD.’ He was manifesting God in humanity.” (TMK 111.2,3)

“The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested.” (Ms 21, 1906.10)

When Christ said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work,” He was again alluding to His oneness with God, and the rest of the verses that followed all the way to the end of the chapter, Christ was bearing record of Himself as the divine Son of God, even worthy of receiving equal honor with the Father, which He did not think to be robbery (John 5:23, Phil. 2:6), and in the final three verses of John 5, Christ said:

“[45] Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, EVEN MOSES, IN WHOM YE TRUST. [46] FOR HAD YE BELIEVED MOSES, YE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED ME: FOR HE WROTE OF ME. [47] But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (John 5:46,47)

In other words, as Christ was making the case for His equality and oneness with the Father, knowing that they rejected His claim because they accused Him of blasphemy (John 10:33), He pointed them to the writings of Moses, which they “claimed” to believe and implied that he wrote of the same claim about Him as the Son of God, equal and one with God the Father.

This is fascinating and intriguing, because Christ claimed that Moses wrote of Him, so we ought to find Christ in the writings of Moses that asserts His oneness with the Father as God.

“Jesus declared that there was no necessity for him to accuse them to the Father, FOR MOSES, WHOM THEY PROFESSED TO BELIEVE, HAD ALREADY ACCUSED THEM. ‘For,’ said he, ‘had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; FOR HE WROTE OF ME. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?’ Jesus knew that the Jews were determined to take his life, yet in this discourse HE FULLY EXPLAINED TO THEM HIS SONSHIP, THE RELATION HE BORE TO THE FATHER AND HIS EQUALITY WITH HIM.” (2SP 172.1)

“...have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?” (Mark 12:26)

While Christ quoted Moses to the Sadducees to prove that he taught that there is a resurrection from the dead, there is also a grander truth about the God that spoke with Him saying He was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

“[30] And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an ANGEL of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. [31] When Moses saw it [burning bush], he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, [32] Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.” “[35] This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the ANGEL which appeared to him in the bush.” (Acts 7:30-32,35) [mine]

The “Angel” of the Lord appeared to Moses in Sinai was the same that spoke with him (v. 38), saying, “I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

Who was this “Angel of the Lord” that appeared and spoke with Moses?

“[20] Behold, I send an Angel before thee, TO KEEP THEE IN THE WAY, AND TO BRING THEE INTO THE PLACE WHICH I HAVE PREPARED. [21] Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; FOR HE WILL NOT PARDON YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS: for MY NAME IS IN HIM.” (Ex. 23:20,21)

This “Angel” or Messenger guided the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan, and He has the authority to not pardon sins, implying that He can also pardon sins, and the name of God is in Him.

If this Angel is the Angel of the Lord, then He must be a distinct Person from the Lord or God, yet He can claim to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, therefore He must have pre-existed Abraham.

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)

“I am come in my Father's name...” (John 5:43)

“[7] Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?” “[10] But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.” (Mark 2:7,10)

The pre-incarnate Christ was that Angel of the Lord and He appeared unto Moses in the flame of the burning bush and proclaimed Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

“[13] And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? [14] AND GOD SAID UNTO MOSES, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” (Ex. 3:13,14)

“IT WAS CHRIST WHO FROM THE BUSH ON MOUNT HOREB SPOKE TO MOSES SAYING, ‘I AM THAT I AM.... Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.’ Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel's deliverance. So when He came ‘in the likeness of men,’ He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, IS GOD ‘MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.’ Timothy 3:16. And to us He says: ‘I AM the Good Shepherd.’ ‘I AM the living Bread.’ ‘I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.’ ‘All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.’ John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. “‘GOD WITH US’ is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.” (DA 24.3)

And Christ gave the Ten Commandments to Moses to give to the Israelites.

“[1] And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. [2] THE LORD OUR GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH US IN HOREB. [3] The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. [4] THE LORD TALKED WITH YOU FACE TO FACE IN THE MOUNT OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, [5] (I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to shew you the word of the Lord: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) [6] SAYING, I AM THE LORD THY GOD, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. [7] THOU SHALT HAVE NONE OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.” (Deut. 5:1-7)

“The commandment of God declares, ‘THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.’—CHRIST.” (Ms 194, 1898.13)

“When they [Israel] came to Sinai, He took occasion to refresh their minds in regard to His requirements. CHRIST AND THE FATHER, STANDING SIDE BY SIDE UPON THE MOUNT, WITH SOLEMN MAJESTY PROCLAIMED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.” (Historical Sketches, p. 231)

“The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, HATH GLORIFIED HIS SON JESUS...” (Acts 3:13)

How do we reconcile that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was the Father of Jesus, and then the Angel of the Lord also said to Moses, “I am the God of Abraham...?”

“FROM THE DAYS OF ETERNITY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WAS ‘ONE WITH THE FATHER;’ He was ‘the image of God,’ the image of His greatness and majesty, ‘the outshining of His glory.’” (DA 19.1)

And after Moses received and gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, he said,

“[4] Hear, O Israel: THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD: [5] And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deut. 6:4,5)

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that GOD HATH MADE THAT SAME JESUS, whom ye have crucified, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST.” (Acts 2:36)

“And that every tongue should confess THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:11)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name that is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess THAT CHRIST IS GOD, to the glory of God the Father.” (Ms 44, 1904.2)

“[8] But unto the Son he saith, THY THRONE, O GOD, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. [9] Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS.” (Heb. 1:8,9)

I am appealing to my brethren to consider this, that when we read, “One God and One Lord” is not making a distinction between who God is and who is not, but an allusion to the exaltation of the Son as Lord with God, Their Oneness.