

## JUST HOW MANY YAHWEHS ARE THERE?

REF. A11

Wade Cox of the CCOG claims there are at least three Yahwehs and Carl D Franklin of the CBCG claims there are two Yahwehs. Who is right or could both be mistaken?

The God who spoke from the Burning Bush (Exod 3) gave Moses His name now recorded by four Hebrew consonants (JHWH, YHWH) and often pronounced Jehovah or Yahweh. Most English Bibles render this by two all-capitals forms, LORD (Strong H3068) and GOD (Strong H3069). Both forms denote the same Hebrew Tetragrammaton (JHWH). This derives from the Hebrew verb “to be” and literally means, “*The Self-Existent One*” or “*The Eternal*” or “*I AM*” (Exod 3:13-16).

Papers Q7, A2, A3 and P2 at my Internet Home Page show that God the Father was the OT LORD God (JHWH, Yahweh) who met Moses at the Burning Bush and who was the Creator, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of Exodus who remains to this day the Husband of Israel (Isa 54:5; Jer 3:14, 31:32).

Although a Father should be married, Mr Herbert W. Armstrong’s taught Jesus was the OT Creator God and Husband of Israel and despite this meaning that God the Father would be an unmarried Father who begot His Son Jesus through his Son’s Wife Israel and even by incest and adultery – a plain error!

Mr Armstrong also taught that Jesus is the I AM of Exodus based on, “...before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). However, Jesus did not once name Himself “I AM” but rather attested to his prior existence (see paper Q7).

Paper P5 essays that Jesus surrendered his former Self-existent Godship (Deity) to become incarnate as a Son of man and die as our atoning Passover Lamb.

Few understand the full enormity of Jesus’ sacrifice and in particular not Unitarians and

Trinitarians, namely that Jesus surrendered for all future eternity his former Self-existent Deity (Phil 2:6-8) to become an obedient Son to his former fellow God and now His Father, and to even depend on his fellow God to restore his Life to him!

Paper A4 explains (published on page 8 of Connections, April 2008, Issue No. 115) that although Jesus retained His former God mind, only God the Father remains a true Self-existent God. Therefore only God the Father could have named Himself to Moses: JHWH or “I AM” (Exod 3:13-16 - see paper Q7).

### FEW UNDERSTAND THE FULL ENORMITY OF JESUS’ SACRIFICE

In particular Unitarians and Trinitarians fail to understand when Jesus agreed to become and die as our atoning Passover Lamb, that He also surrendered for ever His former independent Self-existent Deity (Phil 2:6-8) because He became totally dependent on his fellow God to restore His Life (John 17:5) and in the process Jesus also had to accept that He would be for the rest of eternity an obedient Son to his fellow God and now His Father!

Today all life, including human, angelic, and Jesus’ restored Life came from God the Father. Therefore God the Father alone remains a true Self-existent God and Father: a point missed by both Unitarians and Trinitarians who mistakenly view the Bible as a monotheistic book – e.g. “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD*” (Deut 6:4).

So how did Wade Cox conclude there are three Yahwehs? Through misreading Genesis 18:1-3 and not understanding why only God the Father is a Self-existent God, who named Himself, *The Eternal* or “*I AM*” (JHWH or Yahweh) in Exodus 3:13-16.

Let us examine Genesis 18:1-3: <sup>1</sup> *And the LORD appeared to him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;* <sup>2</sup> *And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground.* <sup>3</sup> *And*

*said, My Lord (should be LORD), if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant.*

Wade Cox’s argument is that LORD (Yahweh) refers to all three angelic Beings visiting Abraham. In truth it refers just to the Most High God of Abraham because the two angels accompanying The Eternal or Most High God are not eternal because they are created angelic beings.

Indeed the Hebrew of Gen 18:3 shows through Abraham twice using a *singular* Hebrew pronoun to address the LORD that he

had turned towards and addressed the Most High God among his three Heavenly visitors.

Wade Cox’s erred in concluding that three Yahwehs visited Abraham because he did not understand that LORD (Yahweh) always denotes *The Eternal*, who is God the Father and he did not notice that Abraham used *singular* Hebrew pronouns to address directly Him rather than the accompanying angels.

Carl D Franklin claims that 2 Yahwehs occur in the Pentateuch and Psalms but he too fails to understand the fundamentals.

For example, with Genesis 1:26 he ties himself in knots in his attempt to show that God (Elohim, Strong H430) is plural and therefore denotes more than one God Person.

This despite leading Hebrew grammars stating that throughout the Hebrew OT Elohim, when this refers to the true God, is always singular and governs only singular Hebrew verbs and singular Hebrew pronouns.

For example in Gen 1:26, Carl Franklin argues that Elohim is a plural noun by appealing to the plural pronouns “us” and “our” in, “*And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image’*”. The error of that argument is most simply shown by comparing the phrases: “*And God said, Let us make man...*” “*And Bill said, ‘Let us make lunch...’*”. Since the plural pronoun “us” does not turn Bill into twins, so “us” does not turn God (Elohim) into two (or more) God Persons!

Also in Hebrew the phrase “*And God said*” has a *singular* Hebrew verb “said” and so its subject “Elohim” is singular and confirms that God (Elohim) is one God Person.

Notice how this same (singular) God says in verse 29, “...*Behold, I have given you every herb*”. In this verse too and as elsewhere throughout the Hebrew OT, God (Hebrew Elohim), governs only singular Hebrew verbs.

All this is explained in detail in Section 6.7 of paper P2 and illustrated in paper A3, which was published on page 9 of Connections, March 31, 2008 (Issue No. 114).

Therefore Carl D Franklin also erred in his claim there are two Yahwehs.

God the Father named Himself *The Eternal, The Self-existent One, I AM* (JHWH, Yahweh) because He alone remains a Self-existent God after Jesus agreed to surrender His former Self-existent Godship (Deity) to become our atoning Passover Lamb. In other words there remains only one Self-existent God, God the Father, who named himself accordingly, *The Self-existent One*, that is JHWH, or Yahweh. To claim there are two or three Yahwehs is nonsense.

Download the papers cited above from my Internet home page, [www.rightly-dividing.net](http://www.rightly-dividing.net) or request these from, Henk Jens, P.O. Box 121, Belmore, NSW, 2192, Australia.