

1.0 Introduction

My paper *God the Father is the Creator and Husband of Israel!* claims that God the Father met and spoke with Moses at the Burning Bush. Critics reject this because John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46 state that no man has seen or heard God the Father. They also appeal to Christendom's well-known *I AM* link (John 8:58 to Exodus 3:14) that Jesus was the God who spoke with Moses at the Burning Bush.

This monograph begins by showing that *God the Father* is the *God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob*, and also the O.T. LORD God (JHWH Elohim), and who named Himself '*I AM*', that is the *Self-Existent One*. It then exposes as false mainstream Christendom's '*I AM*' link. The monograph shows that Moses and the patriarchs before him, saw and heard only a similitude of God the Father and so indeed no man truly saw and heard God the Father. Besides it is shown that not even Moses heard (obeyed) God the Father at all time. As a result it is claimed that in the face of the dozens of O.T. and N.T. scriptures that show that God the Father is the Creator, God of Eden, God of the O.T. patriarchs, God of Exodus, that John 1:18, 5:37 do not deny those dozens of scriptures.

Those who insist that John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46 do deny those dozens of scriptures, should realize that their insisting would turn on this matter the Bible into a self-contradictory book. This is matter is of critical importance because not understanding who God the Father is, led post-Apostolic mainstream Christendom into first Unitarianism and later into Trinitarianism. These same errors are being repeated in the Church of God of our time. History repeats itself when we refuse to learn from history.

Readers who wish to know God the Father and His Son Jesus better should after reading this monograph also read the first four items listed in Section 6.0, *References*). The fifth item shows what overtook the former Worldwide Church of God since 1974.

All scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Bible.

2.0 God the Father's Identity

Let us begin by reading Romans 6:4 and Acts 3:13:

Rom 6.4 ...Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk...
Acts 3.13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus;...

The first verse states that *God the Father* raised Jesus from the dead but the second verse says that *the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob* glorified (raised) Jesus. Therefore these two verses give the following identity:

God the Father = God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

We find from Exodus 3:2-6 that the LORD God who met Moses at the *Burning Bush* named Himself, *The God of Abraham of Isaac and of Jacob* (verse 6) and this extends the previous identity to:

God the Father = God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob = God at Burning Bush

Exod 3.2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.
.3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.
.4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.
.5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.
.6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.
.7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

Although verse 2 refers to the 'angel of the LORD', verses 5 and 6 reveal that He was not an angel but the LORD God (JHWH Elohim) Himself. As a man Moses was unable to see and hear spirit beings and so Moses must have beheld a similitude of God the Father, which in verse 2 is called 'the angel of the Lord'

(Theophanic Angel). Note that in verse 5 the ‘angel of the LORD’ instructs Moses to remove his shoes because the ground Moses stood on was holy. Only God and no angel could have said that because man must worship only God and never an angel. Indeed verse 6 shows how Moses hid his face for he dared not look upon God. Also verse 7 states that the LORD and not an angel spoke with Moses – note for example the 1st person personal pronouns, ‘I’ and ‘my’.

English translations of the O.T. customarily depict the Hebrew Tetragrammaton JHWH (Strong #3068) as the all capitals LORD. So the LORD God who met Moses at the *Burning Bush* is the O.T. LORD or JHWH. As a result we have now the following extended identity

God the Father = God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob = God at Burning Bush = LORD God = JHWH
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The LORD God continued speaking with Moses at the Burning Bush as follows:

- Exod 3.10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- .11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- .12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.
- .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.
- .15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

The passage Exodus 3:10-16 tells us a number of important facts and which are much overlooked in Christendom. Note from verse 13 that Moses requested the *name* of the God speaking with him. Then in verse 14 God gave Moses His *name* as *I AM*. This gives the following further extended identity:

God the Father = God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob = God at Burning Bush = LORD God (JHWH) = I AM

God the Father’s name *I AM* means *The Self-Existent One* or JHWH and this applies today *only* to God the Father for our Lord Jesus surrendered for all future eternity His former Self-Existent Godship to become mankind’s atoning Passover Lamb – see my paper *The Bible Shows Jesus Was A Self-Existent God* (See Section 6.0, References).

Before we leave this passage let us reassure ourselves from verse 16 that it was the LORD God who spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush and not an angel sent by God as is so often claimed.

- Exod 3.16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, ...

Therefore we have now incontrovertible proof that God the Father appeared to and spoke with Moses but of course Moses only saw a similitude of God the Father and not the full glory of God the Father. *So it can be said that Moses saw God the Father and yet did not see God the Father.*

Let us now examine those critical verses John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46, which appear to say that no man (not even Moses) has seen or heard God the Father at any time.

- John 1 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.
- 5.37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.
- 6.46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

The answer is in part contained in John 1:18, which infers that of all men, only Jesus saw and heard God the Father, when Jesus was Himself a spirit God in Heaven with God the Father. No man has ever beheld God

the Father in this way. Not even Moses when he asked God the Father in the mountain to show His full glory. God explained this was not possible and Moses was shown only a glimpse of the rear of God the Father's person (Exod 33:18-23; 34:5-8). Man's limited physical senses do not allow man to see spirit beings and these can manifest themselves before man only as similitudes. That means no man has ever truly seen or heard God the Father. Moses alludes to this in Deuteronomy chapter 4.

- Deut 4.12 And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.
- .13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.
- .14 And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.
- .15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:
- .16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, ...

Moses stressed that the people saw no similitude of the LORD God so that they would not corrupt themselves by making an image of God's similitude to worship as an idol (verse 16). It was quite different for Moses as the LORD God impressed upon the rebellious Miriam and Aaron.

- Num 12.1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman...
- .2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.
- .4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.
- .5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.
- .6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.
- .7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.
- .8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?
- .9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

Moses was the first of the O.T. prophets and the only one granted to see a similitude of the LORD God (verse 6). Note also from verse 8 that the LORD God spoke directly to Moses (mouth to mouth). Let no doubt remain in the reader's mind that Moses saw and heard a similitude of God the Father at the Burning Bush. Of course that is not the same as seeing and hearing God the Father in His full glory in Heaven as Jesus had seen and heard whilst in His Father bosom (John 1:18). *Therefore Moses having seen and heard God the Father's similitude at the Burning Bush does not contradict John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46.*

3.0 God the Father Was the I AM

I must also respond to the question, 'But is not Jesus the *I AM* of Exodus 3:14 rather than God the Father'? Mainstream Christendom sees Jesus as the *I-AM* God who met Moses at the Burning Bush based on the claims: (1) that Jesus had named Himself *I AM* in John 8:58 and (2) that the God who spoke to Moses also named Himself *I AM* in Exodus 3:14 (see above). The trouble with these claims is that although (2) is correct, (1) is false. Claim (1) is false because in John 8:58 Jesus did not name Himself '*I AM*' but with '*I am*' only asserted He had existed before Abraham – there is a huge difference.

John 8.58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

In John 8:58 with '*I am*' Jesus *only* claimed He existed prior to Abraham but He did not name Himself *I AM* as had God the Father named Himself *I AM* in Exodus 3:13-14. Therefore the '*I AM*' of Exodus 3:14 and the '*I am*' of John 8:58 are unlike and do not link Jesus with the God at the *Burning Bush*. As a result Mainstream Christendom's famous *I AM* link has been shown false and therefore not Jesus but God the Father is the God who met Moses at the *Burning Bush*. This leaves us with the following incontrovertible identity for God the Father:

God the Father = God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob = LORD God (JHWH) = God at Burning Bush = I AM

This identity has been proved in many different ways in my aforementioned paper, *God the Father is the Creator and Husband of Israel!* (See Section 6.0, References).

4.0 Hearing and yet Not Hearing

How should we understand John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46 which say that no man has seen or heard God the Father, whereas I have claimed at least Moses saw and heard God the Father's similitude. If John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:47 can be shown to deny the above identity, then the Bible is self-contradictory; because then Peter got wrong in Acts 3:13 that God the Father is the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. *This can not be swept under the carpet but must be faced and answered by the critics of my aforementioned paper.* I believe that this monograph shows this problem does not arise when it is understood what is meant with no man having seen or heard God the Father.

That God the Father's voice has been heard by men can also be seen at Jesus' baptism. There only God the Father could have said, "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*" (Mat 3:17). Those that seek to uphold their literal interpretation of John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46, claim that an angel called out on behalf of God the Father. But the Bible does not say this; and how could an angel say that Jesus is his Son? Seeing Matthew 3:17 records God the Father's direct speech, let us not read into the Bible what is not there but rather let us accept that God the Father's voice was heard at Jesus' baptism.

The reader should now understand that God the Father was 'seen' in O.T. times by the patriarchs and Moses, albeit in the form of a similitude. That leaves us with the question, '*But what about hearing God the Father?*' Of course just like our physical eyes can not see spirit beings, so our physical ears can not hear spirit beings. I could leave it at that and appeal that Moses only heard the voice of a similitude of God the Father but not His real spirit voice.

There is no need to appeal this way for the Bible shows that at times even Moses heard without hearing (listening, obeying) God the Father's voice! The point is that since Eden, whenever mankind heard God the Father's voice, man did not truly hear through failing to listen (obey) God's message. Let us now examine one of the most serious examples of this.

Exodus 20:19 records how immediately after God the Father had given the Ten Commandments the people said they never wanted to hear His voice again. This verse is most important for identifying God the Father as the O.T. God of Exodus but which almost no one has noticed. It deserves a special framing:

And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. (Ex 20:19)

In the passage Deuteronomy 18:15-19 Moses reminds Israel of that episode at Mt Sinai and that God the Father had heard their wish not to hear His voice (verse 16). That as a result God the Father told him that He would send a Prophet (Jesus) with God the Father's message, and that they (their descendants) would have to listen to that message.

- Deut 18.15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;
- .16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.
- .17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.
- .18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
- .19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he (*Jesus*) shall speak in my (*Father's*) name, I (*Father*) will require it of him (i.e. *whosoever will not hearken...*).

We know that again the people did not listen to God the Father's Word as brought by Jesus because they killed Him. That is another reason why no one has heard God the Father because from Eden whenever we heard God the Father's voice, we did not hear Him (failed to listen to Him). That is the deeper explanation of John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46, which was missed by mainstream Christendom.

Let us make quite sure that it was God the Father who told Moses that He would send that Prophet and that this Prophet was Jesus. In Acts 3:18-23 Peter quotes in verses 22-23 from Deuteronomy 18:15-19 and also identifies Jesus as that Prophet through verse 18.

- Act 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.
- .20 And he (i.e. God the Father) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
- .22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.
- .23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

From Deuteronomy 18:15-19 the reader should recognise that *only* God the Father and not Jesus, could have said to Moses that He would send the Prophet, whom we know was Jesus. (Such is the importance of the above framed verse Exodus 20:19 and Moses' comments to this in Deuteronomy 18:15-19.)

Although man often heard God the Father, they never listened to Him and so they never truly heard His voice. No contradiction results with John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46 when recognising from Acts 3:13 and Exodus 3:6 that God the Father was the God of Exodus who spoke to Moses and Israel but was not listened to by Israel and not even always by Moses as the next Section shows.

5.0 Not Even Moses Heard God the Father at All Times!

The following two examples show that Moses too did not always hear (obey) God the Father's voice.

In Mark 10:2-9 Jesus reveals that Moses gave Israel divorce and remarriage but did so contrary to God the Father's wish (verses 4-9). The reader should satisfy himself that in this passage, Jesus is critical of Moses giving Israel divorce and remarriage contrary to God's wish. We need to remember that in Eden God the Father instituted marriage as an unbreakable covenant for life. See also my paper *The Garden of Eden Marriage No-Divorce & No-Remarriage Law* (See Section 6.0, References).

In Leviticus 12:1-3 God the Father (JHWH) instructed Moses that all male infants shall be circumcised on the eighth day. But note from Joshua 5:2-9 that Moses failed to have God's command carried out because Joshua had to circumcise all men born in the desert (verses 5 and 7). The reader should now understand that although Moses had heard God the Father's voice, he had failed to hear (listen, obey) God the Father's circumcision command of Leviticus 12:1-3.

6.0 References

The following papers are in the order they are listed, suitable follow up reading and can be obtained from my Internet Home Page or by contacting me directly (details see below).

- (1) *Quick Guide to God the Father Being the God of Exodus,*
- (2) *Quick Guide to God the Father Being the God of the O.T.,*
- (3) *God the Father is the Creator and Husband of Israel!,*
- (4) *The Bible Shows Jesus Was A Self-Existent God.*
- (5) *Laodicea's Lamp!,*
- (6) *The Garden of Eden No-Divorce & No-Remarriage Law.*

7.0 Conclusion

Once the reader understands that even Moses at times failed to hear God the Father's voice, he will understand that John 1:18, 5:37 and 6:46 do no deny the thesis of my paper, *God the Father is the Creator and Husband of Israel!*, namely that God the Father met and spoke with Moses at the Burning Bush and that Moses beheld a similitude of God the Father (Num 12:8) and so did not truly see God the Father.

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Issue 1.1, December 30, 2008, minor corrections and mainly concerning title of item (6) of Section 6.0.

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