

Studies for Restitution

Whom the heaven must receive
until the times of restitution of all things,
which God hath spoken by the mouth of
all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:21

KNOWING THE FATHER

Study to show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

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KNOWING THE FATHER

2COR 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image** from glory to glory, *even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

So we can be changed into the image we behold.

JON 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what; **we know what we worship;** for salvation is of the Jews.

Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, (the Samaritans were professed believers of the one true God?) (PK567) (DA402)

ACT 17:22,23 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' Hill, and said, [Ye] men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

"Mars Hill = the Areopagus"

God is not pleased with us worshipping an unknown God. He wants us to love and worship Him with an understanding of who He is and what His character is like, so we may truly know who we are worshipping. God wants us to have this knowledge for our own good and salvation.

Unknown worship can be devil worship. 1Cor 10:20 Deu 32:16,17.

2COR 4:1-6 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of **Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

THE FATHER'S LIGHT

JN 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John.

1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe.

1:8 He was not that Light, but [was sent] to bear witness of that Light.

1:9 [That] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

JN 8:12 I am the light of the world. (*Jesus speaking*)

1SM 402 As we read of Luther, Knox, and other noted Reformers, we admire the strength, fortitude, and courage possessed by these faithful servants of God, and we would catch the spirit that animated them. We desire to know from what source they were out of weakness made strong. Although these great men were used as instruments for God, they were not faultless. They were erring men, and made great mistakes. We should seek to imitate their virtues, but we should not make them our criterion. These men possessed rare talents to carry forward the work of the Reformation. They were moved upon by a power above themselves; but it was not the men, the instruments that God used, that should be exalted and honored, but the Lord Jesus who let His light and power come upon them. Let those who love truth and righteousness, who gather up the hereditary trusts given to these standard-bearers, praise God, the Source of all light. {1SM 402.2}

....the Lord Himself has come to reflect upon men the light of heaven. He has announced Himself as one with the Father, full of grace and truth, God manifest in the flesh. {1SM 402.3}

1JN 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

MAT 3:16 Spirit of God

MAR 1:10 Spirit

DA 112.1 Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. **But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son.** Direct from the throne issue the beams of **His glory**. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of **purest light**,--fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.

From whom is the dovelike form of purest light coming?

HP 39 After Christ was baptized of John in Jordan, He came up out of the water, and bowing upon the banks of the river He prayed with fervency to His heavenly Father for strength to endure the conflict with the prince of darkness in which He was about to engage. The heavens were opened to His prayer, and the light of God's glory, brighter than the sun at noonday, came from the throne of the Eternal, and assuming the form of a dove with the appearance of burnished gold, encircled the Son of God, while the clear voice from the excellent glory was heard in terrible majesty, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

DA 779 The night of the first day of the week had worn slowly away. The darkest hour, just before daybreak, had come. Christ was still a prisoner in His narrow tomb. The great stone was in its place; the Roman seal was unbroken; the Roman guards were keeping their watch. And there were unseen watchers. Hosts of evil angels were gathered about the place. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held the Son of God. **But a heavenly host surrounded the sepulcher. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb, and waiting to welcome the Prince of life.**

"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven." Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. **The bright beams of God's glory went before him**, and illuminated his pathway. "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard? Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not

the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ's birth.

(panoply = complete or magnificent array, complete armour of a warrior)

JN 17:5 And now, O Father, **glorify thou me with thine own self** with the **glory** which I had with thee before the world was.

EW 54 I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold, for a cloud of **glorious light** covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, "If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist." Before the throne I saw the Advent people--the church and the world.

I saw two companies, one bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then He would look to His Father, and appear to be pleading with Him. **A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne.** But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the **little praying company**. This company **all received the light** and rejoiced in it, and their countenances **shone with its glory**. *(what glory?)*

JN 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Now look at how the Spirit is breathed upon by Jesus and also by Satan in the next statement.

EW 55 I saw the Father rise from the throne, [see page 92.] and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see **one ray of light** pass from

Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit." Then Jesus would **breathe upon them the Holy Ghost**. In that breath was **light, power, and much love, joy, and peace**.

I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." **Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace**. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children.

In EW p54 we saw that the Father sent an exceeding bright light to His Son and from the Son it then waved over the little praying company. They received the light and shone with it's glory.

*Later in page 55 we see the same little company praying for the Father's Spirit, Jesus then breathes upon them the Spirit and they receive **light power and much love joy and peace***

So now, what can we make of this?

Is the Spirit of God **light, power, glory** and much more? Or is the Spirit another being? If another equal being, then why does Jesus breathe him out in Jn 20:22?

How is the Father present in our lives? How is the Son present in our Lives.? How is the Holy Spirit present in our lives?

THE FATHER, THE ONE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

ISA 44:6 Besides me there is no God. **V8** Is there a God besides me?

1COR 8:4 None other God **but one**. **V6** To us there is **but one** God the father

But one. The Scriptures repeatedly stress the fundamental truth that there is only one God, the Creator and Father of all mankind (see Neh. 9:6; Rev 4:10, 5:13 Mark 12:29, 30; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6) (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*)

1520 heis = (*one*)

GK 1) one

MAR 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is **one** Lord:

*Who is the **one** God Jesus is referring to here?*

JN 8:54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

MAR 12:32 *The scribe agrees with Jesus.*

MAR 12:34 *Now Jesus compliments him saying, "thou art not far from the kingdom" Here was a perfect opportunity to correct any error in regard to the scribes knowledge of the God of the Jews and the God of heaven. Please take note that the context in these verses is referring specifically to worship.*

Jesus knows the importance of true worship better than anyone. Is it possible that Jesus here would have overlooked correction, if there had been error in the scribe's answer, when just prior in vs 24 Jesus pointed out error?

THE ONLY TRUE GOD

There is no doubt that Jesus is fully God. Being born of the Father He naturally inherited the same nature as His Father. And that nature is a divine nature.

And to put it beyond any doubt Heb 1:3 tells us,

HEB 1:3 “Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the **express image** of his person”

Express image means exactly the same, no difference at all. But if this interpretation is correct, then why did Jesus pray,

JN 17:3 “And this is life eternal, **that they might know thee the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

The context of John 17 tells us “the only true God” is the father. Does there seem to be a contradiction between Jn 17:3 and Heb 1:3?

The Bible use of the word God, (Elohim in Hebrew and Theos in Greek) has different meanings – as the proper noun of God, and as the nature of both the Father and Son.

GEN 1:26 And God said, **Let us** make man in our image, after our likeness:

1SP Pages 24,25 And now **God says to his Son**, "Let us make man in our image."

Here ‘God’ refers to the Father, a proper noun. He (God) is speaking to His Son, who is God also in nature.

EX 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee **a god** to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Here we see that the Lord made Moses “a god” unto Pharaoh. Elohim here is used with a singular application and refers to man. (only 1 Moses)

PS 82:6, I have said, Ye [are] gods; and all of you [are] children of the most High.

JN 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

In the texts above we also see that in a limited sense, men are called gods.

PS 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the **angels**, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

In a limited sense, angels are also called gods. Look up angels in PS 8:5 in your concordance. (Elohim see Strongs 430)

In reference to Christ, the word 'God' is used to denote His nature as being divine, on the same level as His Father. Christ was "in the form of God."

PHI 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

*But even when the word 'God' is used of Christ, it is used in a limited sense, because even Christ has a God who is "**the head of Christ**" "**above all**" and "**greater than**" He. (greater, can also mean older)*

1COR 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman [is] the man; and **the head of Christ [is] God.**

EPH 4:6 One God and Father of all, who [is] **above all**, and through all, and in you all.

JN 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for **my Father is greater than I.**

But when the word God is used in connection with the one God of the Bible, it applies only to God the Father. (see 1Cor 15:27,28)

JN 17:3 Jesus Himself, in His prayer to His Father declared that His Father is "**the only true God**"

1COR 8:4-6 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.**

8:5 For though there **be that are called gods**, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

8:6 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.

MAR 5:7 What have I to do with thee, Jesus, [thou] Son of the **most high God?**

These demons were once in Heaven, and even they acknowledge the status of God the Father, and Jesus as His Son.

EPH 4:6 the one God and Father of all

The apostle Paul also wrote in 1Cor 11:3 The head of Christ is God. That text along with Eph 4:6 seem to harmonise well with 1Jn 5:20 below.

1JN 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, **that we may know him that is true**, and we are **in him that is true**, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God**, and eternal life.

S.D.A. BIBLE COMMENTARY on 1Jn 5:20

That we may. The apostle makes clear the basic purpose in Christ's coming and His work with mankind—to reveal "**him that is true**," so that men may know Him as He really is (cf. John 1:18; 17:3).

Know him that is true. Literally, "know the true [one]," or "know the genuine [one]," **that is, God the Father** (cf. John 7:28; 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9), whom the Son came to reveal to men, and who can be truly known only through the Son (see on John 1:18; 14:9). By such a description of the Father, John turns his readers' minds from the falsity of Gnosticism (see pp. 625, 626) to the truth of the genuine Christian faith.

In him that is true. Obviously God the Father, as the pronoun "him" suggests.

This is the true God. It is possible to apply these words to Jesus Christ, but their most probable application is to the Father, since it is He of whom John has been immediately speaking in the preceding phrases. But as elsewhere, so here, there is no need to distinguish sharply between the Father and the Son, since they are one in nature, character, and purpose.

Now that we have identified who the true God of the Bible is, we may be able to appreciate the individuality of the Father's character more fully.

THE CHARACTER OF THE FATHER

JON 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In this very well known verse is the understanding of God's character.

Why did He give His Son? Because He loved us so much.

Which Son did He give? His only begotten Son, (only born.)

What was His Son to Him? His only Son was everything to Him.

How much love is represented here? An immeasurable amount of love.

Remember this is a description of the amount of love the Father has for us and how much this great love cost Him.

EW 127 Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? **No, no.**" It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them. Angels were so interested for man's salvation that there could be found among them those who would yield their glory and give their life for perishing man. "But," said my accompanying angel, "that would avail nothing." The transgression was so great that an angel's life would not pay the debt. Nothing but the death and intercession of God's Son would pay the debt and save lost man from hopeless sorrow and misery.

*The debt that had to be paid was so great, that only an infinite sacrifice would do. This infinite sacrifice was "Jesus the only born Son of God." This sacrifice reflects the infinite cost to the Father. There is nothing in the universe, even all creation itself, which could possibly come close to the value of the life of the Son of God. Here we may just begin to try and understand the love and character of the Father. The Father is the originator of all good, all love, all power, perfection, majesty and beauty. With all this at His disposal, and a rebellious world such as ours, why didn't He leave us to pay our own debt and keep His only Son whom He loved so very much? **No, no** He could not. This is not the character of our Father. Even though we didn't deserve this second chance, the love of the Father behoved Him to make a way of escape for us.*

THE MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE.

1JON 4:9,10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God knows from firsthand experience what this sacrifice cost Him in pain and anguish. God knows the most valuable possession a person can have is a child they love. This is what Paul meant when he wrote,

“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all”

ROM 8:32

Abraham's test;

PP 147 That he might reach the highest standard, God subjected him to another test, the closest which man was ever called to endure.

PP 154 It was to impress Abraham's mind with the reality of the gospel, as well as to test his faith, that God commanded him to slay his son. The agony which he endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he **might understand from his own experience something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by the infinite God for man's redemption. No other test could have caused Abraham such torture of soul as did the offering of his son.** God gave His Son to a death of agony and shame.

The bible clearly testifies to the fact that God really did give His only begotten Son for the salvation of mankind. I believe this to be true. And I also believe 1JON 5:5 that only through this belief can I return the love which is needed to obey God and “overcome the world.” Through this act God has not only defeated Satan, but has given mankind the key and motive to receive His grace unto salvation.

The focus of this study has been to reveal the Father's character, but not in any way to belittle our Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus is everything the Father is. He is the express image of the Father. Express image is an exact likeness, but the Father was first. This may well be why the Bible shows Jesus as paying homage, reverence, honour and worship to His Father. I pray that this study has done the same.

*For further study on Jesus, see our study entitled ‘**Knowing the Son**’*