

God Revealed in Jesus Christ

(A Companion Paper to the Sermon Delivered September 12th, 2010)

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“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His Name, and what is His Son’s Name, if you know?”

(Proverbs 30:4, NKJV)

This Scripture is taken from the thirtieth Proverb, having been spoken by an unknown sage by the name of Agur. Here in the fourth verse of that chapter, we find a prophetic gem in a Book not best known for prophecy. Agur poses six questions in this verse, and we can know the answer to each one from Scripture.

The first four questions all have the same answer. They are things only God can do. God asks many such questions of Job in the closing chapters of the Book that bears his name. The point is simple. God is the all-powerful Creator and Sustainer of all things. Therefore, He reigns sovereign over the universe and man does not. The first question which asks who has ascended into heaven or descended from heaven is clearly answered in the New Testament. This refers to the Person of Jesus Christ (John 3:13). The obvious conclusion is that since this passage refers to Jesus Christ, and the One in it is clearly God, then it follows that Jesus must be God. This agrees with the claim that Jesus Christ Himself made that He and the Father are One (John 10:30).

The fifth question asks what God’s Name is. A person’s name in the Bible, particularly in the Hebrew understanding, speaks of character. When God revealed His Name to Moses in the burning bush passage, He calls Himself I AM WHO I AM, which speaks of the eternal and unchanging nature of God. This is where we get the Divine Name YHWH (alternately YHVH). Thereafter, every time you see the Name of God in all capital letters (LORD), this is the English translation of YHWH. This Name of God always speaks of the personal nature of God’s dealings with humankind, or the Personal God (if you will). Because people were

so afraid that they might accidentally break the third commandment and take the Name of God in vain, they modified the Divine Name (Exodus 20:7). By adding vowel points and pronouncing the Name of God phonetically, they came up with Jehovah. The name Jehovah is not found anywhere in the Bible, but is commonly used as a reference to God in place of YHWH (pronounced Yahweh) throughout the Christian world. We also find other names of God which speak of particular work of God at various points in the Old Testament. In Genesis 1-2, God is called Elohim which speaks of the Triune Creator God. Interestingly, this is applied in conjunction with the Divine Name YHWH in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. God is also called Almighty God, Lord, and Most High in other places (Genesis 17:1-2; Job 28:28; Deuteronomy 32:8). There are also several occasions where the Divine Name is also used in conjunction with another descriptive term (for instance YHWH Jireh—the Lord provides in Genesis 22).

The sixth and final question is the most important question for us to answer. **“What is His Son’s Name, if you know?”** We have already established that God is both plural and One (The Holy Spirit is also God, but that discussion is outside the scope of our particular focus—I refer you to my sermon delivered 5/23/10 which you can listen to on our website www.firmfoundationri.com). We can further establish the fact that God has a Son whose right it is to also administer divine judgment (Psalm 2:7-12). In addition to this right, the fact that the Son is also divine is further affirmed in the Old Testament Scriptures and their New Testament application (Psalm 45:6; Psalm 102:24-27; Hebrews 1:5-10). If what has been set before you thus far has not convinced you that Jesus Christ is God, then read Isaiah 53:8-12. The suffering Messiah who is revealed in the New Testament to be Jesus Christ is sinless, able to justify others, and is able to intercede for others. The Divine Name YHWH is not found in the New Testament except in places where the quotations from the Old Testament contain it (e.g. Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3). The claim of the Jehovah’s Witnesses that there were 237 places where the Divine Name was used in the New Testament is false. We have fragments of New Testament dating back to the early second century and the writings of the Early Church Fathers from the second and third centuries that quote the New Testament extensively. None of them have the Divine Name in it.

Here is the main point. If you get nothing else out of this study, at least understand this. Just as YHWH is the personal Name of God in the Old Testament, JESUS is the personal Name of God in the New Testament. The Savior is given two Names right at the beginning of the New Testament, Jesus and God With Us (Matthew 1:21-23). Jesus means 'God is Salvation', and that is the way in which God has revealed Himself to us (Ephesians 3:1-6). Jesus is the only Name under heaven given by which you and I can be saved from our sins (Acts 4:12). It is the One by that Name to which all will one day bow the knee (Philippians 2:6-11). To know Jesus by Name means knowing the salvation that only He can offer. All men and women have the opportunity to be justified in the sight of God by yielding to Him. If you have not trusted Him, stop trying to do it yourself and agree that what He Himself has done is sufficient for your spiritual life and peace. If you have already experienced the inner peace and joy of knowing you have a place in heaven, I pray that you grow in experiencing the Name of Jesus Christ in your own life. May your character be increasingly conformed to His character and will for you. God bless you. Amen.