

The God We Worship

Our God is an Awesome God!

There are many Supposed "gods"!

- There is the god of the Muslims.
 - A god of 'absolute oneness'.
- There are the many 'gods' of Hinduism.
- There is the belief that "God is everything and everything is god." (Pantheism)
- Most people with whom we come into contact today worship man, though many would never admit it (except for Jamie Foxx who recently referred to President Obama as "Our lord and savior").

What About the God We Worship?

- Our God has no beginning and no end,
 - Psalm 90:1-10
 - 2 Peter 3:8
- He is the Almighty!
 - Genesis 17:1
 - Nothing Subject to Power is Beyond Him!
 - All the energy we use today was created by God in the beginning!
- He is not limited by Space!
 - Jeremiah 23:23; Isaiah 40:9-12

What About the God We Worship?

- Our God is a God of Knowledge!
 - Psalm 139:1-6
 - Matthew 11:20-24 (He knows what *would* have happened!)
 - He can tell the end from the beginning by speaking of the future as if it were past.
 - Isaiah 45.
 - He is the source of all knowledge, not the recipient, Isaiah 40:13f.

What About the God We Worship?

- He is the God of Life!
- He created the Earth to be inhabited, Isaiah 45:18.
- He that created the eye, shall he not see, Psalm 94:9.
- See also Exodus 4:11

What About the God We Worship?

- He is a God of Love, 1 John 4:8.
 - Not the Mushy, Romantic kind.
 - He created that for our use.
- The Love of John 3:16, '*agape*'
- He is a God of Justice and Judgment.
 - He gave a command to be obeyed, Genesis 3.
 - He passed Judgment on those who disobeyed, 11-19.

Our God does NOT NEED:

- Our God does not need to be carried, Jeremiah 10:1-5.
- Our God does not need to be fed, Psalm 50:10-12.
- Our God does not need our worship, Isaiah 1:10-20.
- Our God does not need us for Him to exist, Hebrews 1:3.
- Our God is Spirit, John 4:24.

Our God is a God of Truth

- Paul says in Titus 1:2, “in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal;” (Numbers 23:9)
- Jesus said, “Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17, see Psalm 19:9.
- God has no need of falsehood to accomplish His purposes.
- Satan is the father of falsehood, John 8:44.

Our God is a God of Absolute Justice!

- The end of all flesh is come before me; Genesis 6:13.
- Abraham asked, “shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Genesis 18:25.
- God told Ezekiel, “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (18:4)

Our God is a God of Mercy.

- But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and forsookest them not. Nehemiah 9:17.
- He demands this quality to be developed in us, Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7.
- David counted on the mercies of God throughout the Psalms 18:25, etc.

Our God is a God of Forgiveness!

- Man has a hard time forgiving offenses against them, Matthew 18:21ff.
- But God is abundantly willing to forgive, Isaiah 55:6-9.
- But He conditions OUR forgiveness on the way we forgive OTHERS, Matthew 6:14.
- Paul reinforces this in Ephesians 4:31, 32.

We Serve and Worship an Utterly Awesome God!

- No god of the heathen or pagans comes close!
- No man, however good, is worthy!
- His attributes and Character inspire AWE!
- We should, therefore, give heed to the manner in which we approach Him in Worship.
- Let us be neither flippant nor terrified, but filled with a solemn reverence and earnestness.

The Angel of Jehovah

Who is this strange Personage?

Hebrews One Tells us of Angels

- Here the writer contrasts the Son with Angels:
- He has a better name than they, vs.4.
- He is called the Son, vs. 5.
- Angels are to worship Him, vs. 6.
- The Son has the Scepter, vs. 7, 8.
- The Son sits at the right hand, vs. 13.

- But there is One Angel this does not seem to fit!

This is the Angel of Jehovah!

- He appears many times in the Old Testament!
- His name is mentioned 52 times.
- He appeared to Hagar in Genesis 16:7.
- He appeared to Abram in Genesis 22:11.
- He appeared to Moses in Exodus 3:2.
- He appeared to Balaam in Numbers 22:22.
- To the Israelites in Judges 2:1.
- To Gideon in Judges 6:11.
- To Manoah and his wife in Judges 13:3.

This Angel Speaks as if He were God!

- In Judges 2:1 "And the angel of Jehovah came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you:"
- In Ge 22:12 And he said, Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him. For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me.

This Angel Speaks as if He were God!

- Nu 22:35 And the angel of Jehovah said unto Balaam, Go with the men; but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.
- Ge 16:10 And the angel of Jehovah said unto her, I will greatly multiply thy seed, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

This Angel Acts With God's Authority!

- All of Genesis 18:13! "I will certainly return unto thee when the season cometh round; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. "
- See Also verse 32, "And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for the ten's sake.

This Angel Accepts Worship!

- Judges 13:16 And the angel of Jehovah said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wilt make ready a burnt-offering, thou must offer it unto Jehovah. For Manoah knew not that he was the angel of Jehovah.

This Angel is Called God by Those who meet Him!

- Hagar, Genesis 16:13 “And she called the name of Jehovah that spake unto her, Thou art a God that seeth: for she said, Have I even here looked after him that seeth me?”
- Moses, Exodus 3:6, “And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”
- Manoah, Judges 13:21 Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of Jehovah. And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

So, Who is it?

- Look at John 12:41f, “These things said Isaiah, because he saw his glory; and he spake of him.”
- The only explanation possible is that Jesus is the Angel of Jehovah!
- Can't be the Father! John 1:18; 4:24
- Only the Trinity, a New Testament Revelation allows us to make real sense of these facts!

So, What of it?

- Jesus has always been intimately concerned with the affairs of God's people!
- He is concerned about your concerns!
- As Hagar said, He sees!
- He will also judge. Isaiah 37:36.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10

The Blood of Jesus

AREN'T WE JUST A LITTLE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR THIS?

The Scarlet Thread of Redemption

- The Bible Speaks of Blood from Beginning to end!
- The word is first used in reference to the blood of Abel in Genesis 4:10f.
- It is mentioned in the Prescription of Execution for the Crime of Murder, Genesis 9:6.
 - Note the Avenger of Blood in Numbers 35:19ff.
- God turned the Nile into Blood in Exodus 7:17ff.
- God told the Israelites to put blood on the Doorposts and Lintels on their houses, in Exodus 12:7.

The Scarlet Thread of Redemption

- Blood is Most referenced in Leviticus. (67 times)
 - It was sprinkled or poured out on the altar for almost every sacrifice.
 - Absolutely forbidden to eat blood, Leviticus 17:10-14.
- It is also mentioned in the New Testament
- Jesus said His Blood was the Blood of the New Covenant, Matthew 26:28.
- Paul told the Ephesian Elders the Church was purchased by the Blood of Christ, Acts 20:28.
- We are Justified by His Blood, Romans 5:9.

The Scarlet Thread of Redemption

- We are Redeemed by the Blood of Christ, Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:19.
- We are Made Near by His Blood, Ephesians 2:13.
- Peace is made through His Blood, Colossians 1
- Conscience Cleansed by Blood, Hebrews 9:14:20.
- Hebrews 9:22 “And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission.”

But Why blood?

- Could not God have chosen a less repulsive means?
- NO!
- He chose it on purpose and He explained it in the Beginning!
- Genesis 2:16 “And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

But Why Blood?

- Genesis 9:4 “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”
- Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life”
- The BLOOD makes ATONEMENT.

But Why Jesus' Blood?

- Hebrews 10:4 “For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.”
- All the rivers of blood of bulls and goats from the beginning of time could not wash away sin. It had to be a man! Why?
- Numbers 35:33 “So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood, it polluteth the land; *and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.*”

We Must Respect God's Plan!

- ‘Respect’ does not mean ‘Let God have an equally good a view as yours!’
- It means ‘submit to’.
- Who are we to reply against God? (Romans 9:20)

Let Us Be faithful!

- Hebrews 10:28 “A man that hath set at nought Moses law dieth without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses: 29 of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ

Does it really make any Difference?

What Makes a Doctrine Mandatory?

- Does it have to be mentioned or assumed on every page?
- The Greatness of God.
- The Necessity of Faith.
- That Faith must be Obedient!
- Others are not mentioned so much but are still recognized by us!
- Baptism for the Remission of Sins, Acts 2:38; 22:16.
- Church to be Supported by Lord's Day Contribution, 1 Cor. 16:1,2; Phil. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:7.
- Elders' Authority limited to one Flock, Acts 20:28.

What About a Doctrine Seldomn Mentioned ?

- How many times must the Lord say something for it to be so?
- Titus 1:2 makes it clear - only ONCE!
- If God repeats himself that's great! But Once is sufficient!
- Modernists Claim such lack of mentioning of the Virgin Birth means it is not important, or not even taught!

The Virgin Birth is Foretold in the Old Testament!

- It is hinted at in Genesis 3:15, And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
- He calls the Messiah, the Anointed One, "the seed of woman"
- Never such language elsewhere in the OT.
- Always the "seed of men".

What About Isaiah 7:14?

- "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."
- The Crucial Word is 05959. `almah, al-maw' feminine of 5958; a lass (as veiled or private):--damsel, maid, virgin.
- TWOT says there is NO INSTANCE where this word is used of a woman who is not a virgin.
- The Septuagint translates this word into the Greek "parthenos". Think of the Parthenon!

The NT Explains these Passages!

- The Account of Matthew 1:18-25.
 - Joseph was a righteous man considering Divorce.
 - God sent an angel to explain things to him.
 - The child was of the Holy Spirit, not man,
 - He was given a name for the boy, Jesus.
 - The Angel cited the verse Isaiah 7:14.
 - Immanuel means, God with us".
- The Events of Luke 1:26-35.
 - How did Mary respond to the angel?
 - The Angel responded with verse 35.
 - No other possible reason BUT a Virgin Birth!

Why is This Doctrine Attacked So?

- Because it is a Positive Assertion of the Divinity, the Deity of Jesus Christ.
- When you deny this doctrine you have no other reason to accept any other part of Christianity.
- Look at Mark 2:9, 10; The Healing of the Man borne of Four.
 - It is based on an Argument from the Lesser to the Greater!
 - In Other Words: Everything else we KNOW about Jesus DEMANDS this!
- To deny this is Ultimately to Deny all else!

Arguments of Infidels:

- Mark and John don't mention it!
- True but so what!
- John doesn't mention his birth at all, does that mean he wasn't born?
- The other writers ignore the subject!
- Paul never mentions Mary either. Does she not exist?

A SHORT DISCUSSION OF

The Will of God

WHY IS THIS DISCUSSION NEEDED?

- Because the Will of God is not a simple *monolithic* whole.
- This is the mistake of Calvinism's Predestination.
- We often blame "The Will of God" when we don't understand why things happen.
 - A loved one dies in spite of our best efforts.
 - Evil comes upon us "out of the blue".

God's Intentional Will ————— God's Consequential Will ————— God's Ultimate Will

WHAT IS GOD'S INTENTIONAL WILL?

- This is What The Almighty Intended **From The Beginning**.
 - For Example:
 - It was God's Intent that Man Live in the Garden Forever.
 - See Genesis 1:26 and 2:16ff.
 - It was also God's intent that people not need clothing.
 - See Genesis 2:25.
 - It was God's intent that men live in obedience to Him.
 - See Genesis 2:16f
 - Included in this intent is the Right to Choose.
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WHAT IS GOD'S CONSEQUENTIAL WILL?

- This is what God's Will **CHANGES TO** after man's sinful actions.
 - Man was put out of the Garden of Eden, Genesis 3:24.
 - Adam and Eve were made to wear clothing of animal skins, Genesis 3:21.
 - Man will not live forever in this world, Genesis 3:22.
 - These sinful actions changed God's Intentional Will!
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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW THIS?

- It is important because we see this Will of God being worked out in the lives of God's servants throughout History.
 - God intended that Jonathan rule after Saul, but Saul's rebellion in the matter of Amalek changed that, 1 Samuel 15:10-31.
 - It was NEVER God's intent for the children of Israel to practice Human Sacrifice, Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 32:35. Since they did He brought destruction upon them.
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WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT SIN IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT CHANGES GOD'S WILL.

- Righteousness Changes God's Intentional Will as Well.
 - The City of Nineveh escaped God's Intentional will by REPENTANCE, Jonah 3.
 - Good King Hezekiah changed God's intentional will by Prayer, Isaiah 38:1-9.
 - It is important because we can know that WE can change God's Will!
 - James 5:13-18; John 14:13,14; 15:16; 16:23.
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WHAT IS GOD'S ULTIMATE WILL?

- This is the final outworking of God's Intentional will.
 - God wanted men to live forever in Paradise on Earth but now those who obey will live forever with Him in a New Heavens and on a New Earth.
 - But **ONLY** those who choose to obey, as imperfect as they may be, will be so blessed.
 - Will you be one of those? It is up to you!
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To Be Like Jesus

What Must We Do?

The Apostle Paul Said:

- Phil. 3:7 Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith:

The Apostle Paul Said:

- Phil. 2:5 Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; 8 and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.

If We Are to be Like Jesus, Then:

- We Must Love Sinners the Way Jesus did,
 - Matthew 9:36
 - Mark 10:21
 - Luke 23:34
- We Must Love the Church the Way Jesus Did,
 - Acts 20:28
 - Ephesians 5:25
- We Must Hate Sin the Way Jesus Did,
 - Mark 3:5

If We Are to be Like Jesus, Then:

- We Must Serve the Way Jesus Did,
 - Matthew 20:28
 - John 13
- We Must Depend on God the Way Jesus Did,
 - Luke 6:12
 - Matthew 26:42
- We Must Stand For the Truth the Way Jesus Did,
 - John 6:66-69
 - Matthew 23

If We Are to be Like Jesus, Then:

- We Must Obey the Way That Jesus Did,
 - Hebrews 5:7-9
 - Philippians 2:8
- All of These Are Within Our Reach, IF,
 - 1 Peter 5:5-10
 - 2 Peter 1:8-11