LORD OF THE OLD AND NEW

By Stephen Hicks

Everything in "Bold" print are my comments.

A question has come up here in the Church of God in the last few months. That question is, "Who was the God of the Old Testament?" After a lot of study and prayer the ministers in our group have come to understand that Jesus was the God of the Old Testament.

There are still many who do not believe this, and we pray that they will study the bible and come to the same understanding.

I have decided to share this with you, because it is important for God's people to understand this, if they are going to walk with the Lord.

The first thing we must understand is that the Word says that no one has seen God, the Father. If we believe the Word and understand that God cannot lie, then we can accept this teaching.

John 1:18

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. Jesus is the spokesman for the Father and teaches us about Him.

These are Jesus' own words and He says that no one has seen the Father except Him and He came to share the Father with us. The Apostle John says the same thing. 1 John 4:12-13

- 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

We have not seen the Father, but He dwells in us through His Holy Spirit. By us learning about Jesus, we learn about the Father. Jesus said this many times.

John 6:41-46

- 41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, <u>I am the bread which came down from heaven.</u>
- 42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith. I came down from heaven?
- 43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.
- 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
- 45 It is written in the prophets, <u>And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.</u>
- 46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

 Jesus says clearly that He is the only one to have seen God. If anyone else, old or new, had seen God, then Jesus would be lying.

John 8:18-19

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

John 14:5-9

- 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- 6 Jesus saith unto him, <u>I am the way</u>, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.
- 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.
- 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

So, if no one has seen God, the Father, then who was the One who spoke to the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament? It was the Lord Jesus. He has been the spokesman and right hand of God from the beginning. Jesus brought the light of God, the Father into the world at creation.

Genesis 1:1-5

- 1 <u>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.</u>
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

This light was not the sun and moon, because they weren't created yet. This was Jesus bringing the light of God into a world of darkness. John confirmed this:

John 1:1-14 (KJV)

- 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God. We know that Jesus is the Word. He was with God and Jesus was a God, sitting at the right hand of God, the Father.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. God, the Father told Jesus what to do and Jesus created it. They worked in one accord, one Spirit. Their minds and thoughts were the same.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. Jesus had the light of God, the Father and brought that light to the world as it said in verse 1.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. He shared the light with man from the beginning, but most rejected Him. He came in the flesh to share the light of the Father with Judah, but they rejected Him so He shared it with the Gentiles.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. John, the Baptist.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light (**Jesus**), that all men through him might believe.
- 8 He (John, the Baptist) was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. John was a witness for Jesus, telling men to repent and believe in Jesus.

- 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own (Judah), and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: **He gave the Spirit to all who believed Him and that were water baptized.**
- 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

In the Old Testament, Jesus was still a God. He could transform Himself into flesh, a column of fire, a cloud of covering, an Angel of the Lord or just the voice of God, the Father.

Who walked with Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:8-10

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. The word, "voice," should be translated, "sound," as in they heard the LORD God walking in the garden. Jesus was the One they heard walking, because He walked with them daily. Remember that no one has seen God, the Father. Jesus could manifest Himself into a fleshly man, so that Adam could even look upon Him and not die.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. It was Jesus, who acted as priest, who sacrificed animals to make the skins to cover their nakedness from the sin that they had committed.

Who spoke to Noah? Genesis 6:13-14

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Whether He appeared to Noah in the flesh or in a vision, it was the Lord Jesus that brought the message from the Father in heaven. Jesus is the Word of God. He spoke everything into existence through the authority the Father had given Him.

It was the Lord Jesus that came down and looked upon the tower of Babel and then told the Father that they should scatter the people and their languages. Genesis 11:5-9

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. The Father and the Son were in agreement, this is why it says, "Let us go down," He sent the Lord Jesus down to do His will.

- 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.
- 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Who called Abram out of his country and then met with him several times? Genesis 12:1-3

- 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: No one has heard the Father's voice except the Son, so this was Jesus speaking to Abram.
- 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
- 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. **Jesus was promising Abram His protection and blessings, just as He promises us the same today.**

Jesus appeared to Abram in the flesh as the Priest of God, the Father. Genesis 14:18-20

- 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the <u>priest of the most high God.</u>
- 19 And he blessed him, and said, <u>Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven</u> and earth:
- 20 And blessed be the most high God (**God**, **the Father**), which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

To show evidence that Jesus was Melchizedek, we must look in Hebrews.

Hebrews 7:1-3

- 1 For this <u>Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God</u>, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;
- 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; This, with no doubt, describes the Lord Jesus. He is the King of Righteousness, He will be the King of Jerusalem, and He is the King of Peace. In the next verse we will see that this Melchisedec had no mother or father, but He appeared like the Son of God in the flesh.
- 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. **Jesus is the only one that is still serving as High Priest of God.**

Genesis 15:1

1 After these things the <u>word of the LORD</u> came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: <u>I am thy shield</u>, and thy exceeding great reward. **Jesus is our Rock**, **our shield**, **our Protector**.

2 Samuel 22:31-36

31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

- 32 For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?
- 33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.
- 34 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.
- 35 He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.
- 36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

The Covenant between God, the Father and Abram was sealed when Jesus, became a burning lamp that passed between the pieces of the animals killed and divided. Genesis 15:17-18

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, <u>behold a smoking furnace</u>, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

18 <u>In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram</u>, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

I believe that Jesus appeared to Hagar as an angel, because He said to her, "I will multiply thy seed exceedingly..." This can be found in Genesis 16.

Jesus appeared to Abram in the flesh and told him of the covenant He would make with him.

Genesis 17:1-2

1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. Keep in mind that Jesus is still a God being, working in accordance with the Father's will.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Jesus appeared to Abraham before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 18:1-3

- 1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;
- 2 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,
- 3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

Jesus speaks to God, the Father, asking Him if He should tell Abraham what is about to happen.

Genesis 18:17-18 (KJV)

17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Genesis 22:11-12

11 And the <u>angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven</u>, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: <u>for now I know that thou fearest God</u>, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

We see that Jesus only appeared to Abraham and spoke to him in visions and as the voice of the angel of the LORD after this. If He appeared in the flesh again, it is not written of.

Who wrestled with Jacob? It was the Lord Jesus appearing as a man. Genesis 32:24-30

- 24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
- 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.
- 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.
- 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.
- 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: <u>for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.</u>
- 29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.
- 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: <u>for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.</u>

The Lord Jesus appeared to Moses in the burning bush and was the One who spoke to him.

Exodus 3:2-6 (KJV)

- 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.

There is no doubt that this was Jesus speaking from the bush since Jesus told the people this in John 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.

Moses asked the One speaking from the bush, "What is His name?" The answer that came was: Exodus 3:13-14

- 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, <u>I AM THAT I AM</u>: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, <u>I AM</u> hath sent me unto you.

Jesus is the great I AM. He said so many times throughout the whole bible. We read it in previous verses. Let me share a few more with you.

John 6:48-51

- 48 I am that bread of life.
- 49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.
- 50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.
- 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Jesus gave Israel the physical bread, but He also offered them Himself at Mt. Sinai. God wanted to make Israel a Holy nation of priests to teach the world. They were being offered the same thing that we are offered today. Because they rejected Him, only a minor few received His Holy Spirit. Their sins could have been covered by His future sacrifice.

John 8:24

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that <u>I am</u> he, ye shall die in your sins. The word, "he," was added by the translators in this verse and the following verses.

John 8:27-29

- 27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.
- 28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that <u>I</u> <u>am</u> he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. **Again, the word "he," was added by the translators.**

John 18:5-6

- 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, <u>I am</u> he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.
- 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

The words, "I AM," are so powerful that it knocked Judas and all the Jewish guards to the ground. His Words are powerful, and they could not stand before the GREAT I AM.

The greatest confirmation of Him being the I AM is when He said it to the Jews in John 8:58

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

He clearly says that He existed before Abraham. He was there, with the Father, from the beginning.

He was the One who led the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt. He was the cloud during the day and their light at night.

Exodus 14:19

- 19 <u>And the angel of God</u>, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the <u>pillar of the cloud</u> went from before their face, and stood behind them:
- 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. He was a light on the side of Israel but left the Egyptians in pure darkness.

He gave them manna to eat and clean water to drink.

He spoke to Moses from the top of Mt. Sinai. Exodus 19:18-19

18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. 19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. We already know that no one has heard the voice of God, the Father, so this is clearly Jesus speaking with the authority of the Father.

Jesus, the deliverer of the Word of God, even speaks directly to the Israelites from the top of the mountain giving them the commandments of God, the Father.

Exodus 20:1-2

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 <u>I am</u> the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. He, the I AM, was speaking about what He did under the authority of the Father in heaven. And then delivers the commandments of obedience to the Father in Exodus 3-17. He continues teaching Moses after Israel rejects hearing Him speak to them, in the next Chapters of Exodus.

Then later He allows Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel to see Him in a vision.

Exodus 24:9-11

- 9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: 10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.
- 11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink. Jesus, the God of Israel, gave these few a glimpse of Himself in a similar way He was transfigured before His Peter, James and John in their day. He did not do it for all the leaders of Israel, just these few.

This had to be Jesus, because He said that no one else had seen God, except Himself. Jesus wrote the laws on the stone tablets with His finger.

Moses would be the last one that the Lord Jesus would speak to face to face.

Exodus 33:9-11

- 9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. This was the tent of Moses that he set up outside the camp of Israel, not the tabernacle of the Lord. It had not been built yet. You can read Exodus 33:7 to confirm this.
- 10 And all the people saw the <u>cloudy pillar</u> stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.
- 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not

out of the tabernacle. So, the Lord Jesus would speak to Moses this way so that the people could see it and know that Moses was chosen by Him.

This great I AM was the God that passed before Moses covering his eyes until He had passed, declaring who He was and is forever.

Moses got to see the back of Jesus in His true glorified form. He couldn't look upon His face because Moses would have died. But the Lord allowed him this great honor.

Exodus 33:22-23 (KJV)

- 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:
- 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

So, the Lord descends upon the mountain and walks past Moses proclaiming Himself as God and proclaiming a description of Himself and the Father in heaven.

Exodus 34:5-7

- 5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The name of the Lord God, that is being proclaimed by Jesus, is a description of His greatness.
- 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
- 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Jesus is proclaiming His Father to Moses just as He did when He came in the flesh.

There are so many verses that should prove to us that Jesus was God of the Old Testament and of the New Testament. It would take many pages to share them all. But I think it should be enough to confirm it in your mind.

Before I end, I want to address a false teaching that is being introduced by false prophets. They are teaching that Jesus and God; the Father are the same being.

I will share some scriptures that I believe prove this false doctrine is completely wrong.

Mark 1:11

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

If Jesus and God were the same being, then why have a voice come and call Jesus His beloved Son? This voice was heard more then once saying the same thing.

John 5:43

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. If Jesus and the Father are the same, then why didn't He just say that He came in His own name?

John 7:28-29

28Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and <u>I am not come of myself</u>, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

Again, I must ask, "Why didn't He just say that He sent Himself." I believe common sense would give us the answer to this question. If what He says is not the truth, then that makes God a liar, and since He cannot lie, then if someone believes or teaches that He and the Father are One, they must be lying.

Jesus is the One who is described in Revelation standing before God, the Father, who is sitting upon the throne.

Revelation 5:6-7

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb (**Jesus**) as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he (**Jesus**) came and took the book out of the right hand of him (**the Father**) that sat upon the throne.

Revelation 6:15-16

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains:

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the <u>face of him that sitteth</u> on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Just these few verses show us that there are clearly two beings, Jesus, the Lamb and God, the Father. The next verses confirm this fact also.

Revelation 1:5-6

5 And <u>from Jesus Christ</u>, who is the faithful witness, and the <u>first begotten of the dead</u>, and the <u>prince of the kings of the earth</u>. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own <u>blood</u>,

<u>6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father</u>; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. **John 1 confirms this about Jesus. He was, He is and He is to come.**

When everything is complete after the Great White Throne judgment and the Kingdom of God has come down from heaven, then Jesus, the Son, will deliver the kingdom to His Father and they will reign together forever.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

To say that God and Christ are the same or to say that Jesus wasn't the God of the Old Testament is saying that Jesus wasn't the I AM of the Old and New. Those who believe this are risking their salvation. Believing in Christ is more then just saying it. It is living it with Him in us through the Holy Spirit. To deny the Word of God brings death and we will die in our sins if we do not repent and hold to the truth.

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that <u>I am</u>, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24