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GOD - *Father and Son*

The ancestry of Jesus Christ has caused confusion. Who was he?

by James McBride

Though it's a matter of personal choice and commitment, the ultimate destiny of every human being is to *'come to the Father'*. The God known to Christians as *Father* is the all-powerful Creator of all, self-existent, eternal. He is revealed in the Scriptures as compassionate, loving, merciful. Mankind, of course, has invented his own gods: *'there are gods many and lords many. Yet for us there exists one God the Father from whom all things come and who is our goal, and one Lord Jesus Christ'* says the apostle Paul. History - and the modern world - is strewn with the destructive effects of these false gods made in man's image, made to satisfy his needs. But the Father is the sole reality.

There's mystery surrounding the 'immortal, invisible, God only wise': no human has spoken to Him or seen Him: *'No-one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son. has made Him known'*. And: *'His voice you never yet heard'*; said Jesus, *'neither have you seen His form'*. He does not converse with us face-to-face. Such is His majesty, His all-consuming power, His glory that any such direct contact would utterly destroy us. Yet we are encouraged to take to Him every need, every problem that besets us. And He answers (sometimes *yes*, sometimes *no*, sometimes *later!*), always out of love, with the reply best suited to our long-term interest.

The Father is surrounded by a multitude of created spirit advisors and helps - some able to wield incredible spiritual power. This angelic kingdom is created to carry out His will throughout the universe. But the Father desires more intimate fellowship. Himself Spirit - *holy* Spirit - He planned to have that fellowship with beings made in His image. To this end He created a 'clay model' - man. Made from earth's elements we humans have in embryo form

divine qualities: especially the ability - and the need - to communicate and to fellowship with Him. Hence the universal desire - so widely perverted - for some form of religion.

But how to communicate? Divine glory to be accessed by man had, in order to protect us, in some way to be tempered.

Logically, God must have had no beginning. (In the realm of pure Spirit, time doesn't exist, while in the material world it is determined by the planetary systems.) The ludicrous alternative is that matter - organic and inorganic - has always existed and has the capacity to evolve intelligent life. It cannot have suddenly or even gradually emerged from total nothingness. Only a unique God of infinite wisdom and power could create a material universe where none had existed.

The creation of the 'clay model' was God's reason for the creation of a material universe, for mankind is at the heart of the divine plan. To interact with man, however, an intermediary was necessary.

Divine Mystery

Herein lies a mystery - one that has occupied the reasoning powers of Christians down the centuries. On one hand there are New Testament texts which clearly state that Jesus the Messiah was instrumental in the whole of creation: *"without him was nothing made that was made"* and *"[there is] one Lord Jesus Christ through whom all things exist and through whom we are"*. In apparent contrast God is described as 'One': *"...the LORD our God is one LORD"*.

Alpha and Omega

Yet, there's no reason to assume that an all-powerful

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Being who has always existed and has no beginning and who could create the vastness of the Universe from nothing could not have eternally existed in dual form.

Alternatively, at some point in the divine existence the 'One God' could - just as with modern bio-technology - have from His own Spirit substance formed a Being equal to Himself, with whom He directly interfaced with man.

The two independent Spirit beings were *one* in every aspect: their plans, their thoughts, their actions, their abilities, their name. In the Scriptures He is known to us as YHVH - Jehovah, Yahweh - the self-existing One, the 'I AM'. And - whichever option we favor - because both Beings are of the same holy and eternal Spirit substance they both have always existed. Note that Jesus claimed for himself complete unity in every way with the Father.

To Him the Father assigned the work of the creation of all that's physical, including mankind. Planet Earth was the stage for the outworking of the divine plan. Together with the Father He designed and created man, and instructed him - at times face-to-face - on how to best function in the flesh.

Down the ages He was - is - the overseer of all man does, intervening when necessary to keep the divine plan on track. He appeared in human form - for example to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, to Moses. He commanded Israel, extricating them from slavery in Egypt and entering into a covenant with them. By means of the holy Spirit He inspired the Old Testament prophets and psalmists and historians.

Son of God

The moment came for more direct intervention. In the fullness of time and at the perfect moment of human history the Godhead determined to interface with mankind more intimately. The time came to make the divine plan universally available. God's holy Spirit by which He acted in the world was to be implanted in human minds.

Sin was dealt with according to the pattern set since Adam sinned - by sacrifice: '*the life is in the blood*' and '*the blood through the life in it serves for expiation*'.

God entered the human realm through the impregnation by the holy Spirit, transformed into human seed, in the womb of a Jewish woman of the Tribe of Judah living in Israel, : '*...his mother Mary was found to be of child through the holy Spirit*'. Born to her was the Son of God, named Jesus, Saviour, '*Immanuel - God with us*'. He became that sacrifice.

For over three decades Jesus, empowered by the holy Spirit, lived the perfect sinless life - because of his divine ancestry qualifying to be the Saviour of mankind by the sacrifice of his own sinless life. Then he was '*declared to be the Son of God*' by his resurrection from among the dead. Because of his perfection death could not hold him.

Divine Fellowship

After his resurrection to Spirit life, Jesus imparted the holy Spirit to his disciples - 'begetting' them to the same Spirit life, and at the ensuing Pentecost empowering them to take his Gospel message to all of mankind. All who - through their calling, repentance and baptism - are thus begotten become '*a new creature*' in Christ. Over their remaining lifespan each is to grow spiritually into the likeness of the character of Christ. Each one who is faithful to death will be resurrected at Christ's return, having the same Spirit body as that of Jesus.

It is by virtue of that indwelling holy Spirit, the indwelling divine mind, that Jesus can claim: '*Before Abraham was, I am*' and '*I and my Father are one*'. By that same holy Spirit we will at our resurrection shed our flesh and rise from the dead as Spirit entities. The clay image is transformed as Spirit. All who have that Spirit at death will when resurrected enter into fellowship and service with the risen Christ. And in due course with our heavenly Father as His sons and daughters and as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The Family of God will at that time become complete.

Published by:

The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
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