

Father Is Restoring What Theology Bamboozled

"I will turn their lament into joy, comfort and gladness" (Jeremiah 31:13)

Prophetic Insight 4-9-2024

A Life Of Faith Must Revolve Around WHO Your Faith Is In

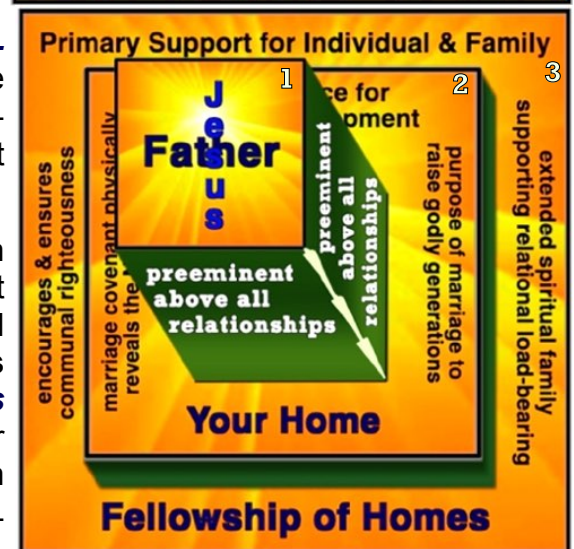


In this Prophetic Insight we'll be discussing some essential Biblical realities about our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus which would have been deeply engrained among the first Jewish followers of Jesus. Essentials such as a **holy fear of God and obedience to His commands because HE gave them** were underlying elements of their reverence for Him. Whether or not they obeyed, there was no doubt that God was central to their identity as His chosen people, and that He had the power to bless them or withhold blessing. God was very real to them!

In contrast, though, much of Christianity today has been shaped by **anti-Semitic theology** over the centuries and exhibits little of the holy awe of God which the Older Testament commands. Therefore few lives are changed by what they believe or practice. That's why so few in the secular world see so little difference in the values and goals of so-called Christians. The lives of the vast majority revolve around themselves rather than centering on our Father's purposes and glory under the rule of our Lord Jesus by His indwelling Spirit. But this is what the Hebraic foundations are being sent forth to change. Our Father accepts nothing less than **our loving and obedient trust as His "Abrahams"**.

In our 4-1-2024 Prophetic Insight, [Abraham Is Indispensable To Understanding Your Life In The New Covenant](#) we cited Abraham as the foundational example in the Older Testament of the trusting obedience our heavenly Father wants in each of His children who are in union with Christ. **This must be reality for each of us:** The spiritual journey to our salvation begins with and flows out of the **preeminence of our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus in our lives through the indwelling Holy Spirit**. This relationship is vastly more crucial and intimate than all others: *"Love the LORD your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your strength"* (Deuteronomy 6:5; also Mark 12:30). The Holy Spirit within the genuinely born again keeps producing this depth of loving commitment through the fruit He bears in our lives (Galatians 5:22,23).

Out of the preeminence of our Father and Jesus in your life's goals and motives, the Holy Spirit flows out through you into the next priorities of your Home and Fellowship of Homes. This bedrock of understanding is **so clearly emphasized in Scripture:** that our **Father's will** and **His glory** and the **Lordship of Jesus** in our lives is foremost in being lived out by the genuinely born again. 🖐️ This means never letting yourself be commit-



ted first to a religious system or creedal position. When we who embrace our Father's relational priorities sing, "To God be the glory...", it's because we live it!

For you personally: If our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus have *not* been your first relational priority, then be sure you repent and appropriate the grace of the Holy Spirit to change your priorities so They *are* preeminent.

Know our Father and Lord Jesus in the Older Testament as the first Jewish converts did.



How can you appropriately prioritize our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus the way all of God's Word commands, if you only have a partial understanding that's drawn solely from the Newer Testament? Very few Christians expect to discover references to our Father and to our Lord Jesus in the **Older Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures**. Yet it's within what Paul calls these "God-breathed" writings (2Timothy 3:16) that you gain the understanding that reorders your entire life. Put yourself in the first century, and when you omit all the anti-Semitic theology that has diminished Abraham and the Older Testament, you'll see how references to Jesus permeate the Hebrew text which His first followers knew so well:

Jesus speaking: "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were **written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms** [Hebrew Scriptures] **concerning Me**" (Luke 24:44).

"Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned with them from the Scriptures** [Hebrew Scriptures], *explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ"* (Acts 17:2,3).

"[Apollos] vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, **showing from the Scriptures** [Hebrew Scriptures] that **Jesus is the Christ**" (Acts 18:28).

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures** [Hebrew Scriptures], and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures** [Hebrew Scriptures]" (1Corinthians 15:3,4).

Within the Hebrew Scriptures the first followers of Jesus could recognize the One Whose coming was clearly made known through the writings of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Their **awed and grateful appreciation** for our Lord Jesus and for the grace of our heavenly Father to accept His sacrifice for our sins was far, far greater than you see among today's Christians who've been bamboozled. All too often Christians have been left ignorant that our Triune God is clearly spelled out in the Older Testament. What a loss! So many divine realities of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit Who comprise the unified Godhead in their varied roles in the Older Testament have been severed as if they have nothing to do with the Newer Testament.

👉 And with that severance YOU are left clueless as to WHY Jesus was sent and HOW we who love and serve Him as our Lord and Savior are commanded to live as directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit in love-grounded obedient trust. You've been **ROBBED**, and left with flabby faith that's **SELF-idolizing** and **SELF-absorbed**. Like the culture around you, you're inclined to expect God to serve YOU, and your only "responsibility" is to be **SELF-gratified** during entertaining services and pleasurable programs.

Why are we so pointedly emphasizing today's ignorant disregard of the Older Testament? Because our Lord Jesus is **not being appreciated fully and wholly** by those who call themselves His followers. And if you identify yourself as one of His followers, do **your values and goals and**

lifestyle accurately represent the holy and awe-inspiring God Who has every right to command you in how to live in ways that please Him? Look with the eyes of your heart and spirit at what has been hidden from so many Christians — the awesome and eternal Presence of Jesus throughout the entire Older Testament! Let's look at some of these undeniable truths.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER EVERYTHING

- “*Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You*” (Jeremiah 32:17).
- “*You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being*” (Revelation 4:11).

There is absolutely NOTHING that has taken place in your life or in the world that God has not foreseen and allowed and even brought about. And Jesus has participated in every aspect of what's happened on earth, because He existed before Creation and is the **Source of all Creation**:

• “*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Because in Him all things were created in the heavens and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together*” (Colossians 1:15-17).

(For more on the sovereignty of God, see Reality 10. [Our God Is Sovereign Over Everything! Yes, Everything!](#))

JESUS IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH GOD IN BOTH TESTAMENTS

Absorb in your inner being the awesome roles with which God identifies Himself, roles which He knew would come into play from eternity past to eternity future: “*Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God’*” (Isaiah 44:6; also 48:12). And now picture Jesus three times applying to Himself the same identification as **the First and the Last** (Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13). Does your awe overflow when you picture Jesus in union with His Father, having for all eternity existed and deserving of worship and praise and thanks? Are you on your knees in awe-filled worship when you realize that every time in the Older Testament that God is referenced, **Jesus is included in the One God, three Persons in the unity of oneness?**

Jesus is the very One for Whom the Jews of the first century were awaiting — because He was promised to come in the fullness of time: “*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6). The prophet had received a message which identified Jesus as not only fully human (Child, Son) and the ruler (the government) of all. Isaiah also correlated Jesus as **Prince of Peace with the Wonderful Counselor/Holy Spirit and the Everlasting Father**. That's why it was no surprise when the Risen Christ made this triune correlation so clear in His command to immerse disciples “*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*” (Matthew 28:19).

The identity of Jesus with His Father is made crystal clear when Jesus tells the Jews that He has “*proceeded forth and come from God*” (John 8:42). Adding to His proclamation of Divine identity was His declaration that “*before Abraham was, I AM*” (v.58), using the same identifier of “*I AM*” that God had told Moses and Israel.

How essential to your own faith is this eternal understanding of **Jesus as fully God and fully Man**? Make sure that you're totally secure in His true identity! Don't ever let yourself be hood-

winked by cults or religious groups which deny that Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is the fullness of God by His very **attributes which only God could have**, such as: • His **omnipresence** (being many places at once — Matthew 18:20) • His **unchanging nature** (Hebrews 13:8) • **He forgives sins** (Matthew 9:2) • He **receives worship** (Matthew 28:17). And by His undeniable assertion in John 10:30, **"I and the Father are one."**

THE GOD OF THE OLDER TESTAMENT IS JEALOUS FOR YOUR LOVE, AS IS JESUS!

Does it surprise you to know that God is **jealous for your love**? Even one of His holy names for Himself is **Jealous** (Exodus 34:14), for in His sight, to worship or bow down to or pray to anyone but Him is **spiritual adultery!** That's why He so often referred to Israel as **"unfaithful wives and prostitutes"**—men as well as women—because they gave to their pagan idols and entities the spiritual favors which were due only to Him. God had declared Himself a **husband to Israel**, and to Him she was **His beloved wife** (Jeremiah 31:32)!

God's jealousy for His beloved was a facet of His character which was known to all of Israel. They recalled from the Hebrew Scriptures that Israel's repeated spiritual adultery and prostitution with idols and pagan spiritual entities brought severe consequences until they repented and returned to Him. God is jealous for His chosen people! And **this same jealousy is aroused in Jesus when His followers spiritually violate Him by venerating others alongside Him.**

Keep in mind that our **Lord Jesus is our heavenly Bridegroom** and **we are His Bride**, the collective called-out ones who comprise His *ekklesia*/church (Revelation 19:7,9). That's why Paul so strongly warns against compromising your communal expression of loving trust in Him with participation in spiritual activities like veneration and prayer that are directed to believers who have died. These elements of spiritual worship are **owed only to God**. As the apostle says, **such spiritual adultery can arouse our Lord's jealousy as an offended Bridegroom!** (See 1Corinthians 10:21,22.)

OUR GOD REQUIRES A HOLY FEAR OF HIM

Don't misunderstand what we're saying. **Fear of God** didn't keep the **Older Testament saints and prophets** from drawing near to their amazing Lord. But they were never presumptuous in their relationship with Him as His own people. It was out of loving regard that God called Abraham **His friend** (2Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8). Yet Abraham recognized beyond doubt that **God was the Initiator** of that friendship. Take this to heart: don't let the truth of our heavenly Father seeing you as His child and as a brother or sister in Jesus' family reduce Him to a divine vending machine. **The Older Testament reveals how worthy of awesome fear our God is!**

Does it surprise you that **Jesus Himself** told His disciples to **FEAR God**? **"But I will show you Whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"** (Luke 12:5). Today the holy and awesome fear of God has been minimized in favor of an unbiblical perspective of God as a "doting grandfather" who overlooks sin. But while this man-pleasing deception may make you feel cozy and accepted, it's totally contrary to what authentic followers of our Lord Jesus in the first century were anticipating in their Messiah. So ask yourself: Are YOU among the deceived who "benignly neglect" the Holy One for Whom **reverent and at times paralyzing fear** permeates the Older Testament?

JESUS THE KING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The designator of LORD for Jesus is more than a title. It breathes forth His role as the coming **King of the Kingdom of God** about which He so often spoke! (See [Lifebytes](#) 7, 8, 51-57.) And when you read the Older Testament with this role in mind, every prophecy which pertains to the **coming Kingdom and rule of God as King** speaks directly of **Jesus, the King Incarnate**. For ex-

ample, ***“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”*** (Isaiah 9:7).

The Israelites of the first century had long been anticipating the **King Who would reign forever** (though they initially imagined for themselves an earthly kingdom with Messiah ruling). They eagerly recalled the prophecy from Hebrew Scripture being fulfilled right in front of them through Jesus: ***“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey”*** (Zechariah 9:9, apperceived in Matthew 21:5). That's why their hearts overflowed with joyous praise: ***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!”*** Peace in heaven and ***glory in the highest!*** (Luke 19:38, apperceiving Psalm 118:26).

Certainly we as well as you are passionately eager for Jesus to return in glory and take up His throne as King here on earth! That hasn't happened yet, but He does exercise **His rule of you** when you are genuinely born again. The Holy Spirit, the **Spirit of Christ, takes up His rule through your yielded spirit** (Romans 8:9; 2Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:16,17; Colossians 1:27; Philippians 1:19). The Kingdom of God begins in you when the **Spirit of King Jesus** takes up residence in you. Because of the indwelling Spirit of Jesus, **Kingdom power is at work now** within and through His indwelled followers (Luke 17:21). To be part of the future Kingdom, you must **trust Him and do your part as His loving and obedient follower** in the present.

So ask yourself this. Are YOU constantly and gratefully aware that the Spirit of the Christ Who is **King of kings and Lord of lords** is dwelling within you IF you have been genuinely born again? If this doesn't describe you, then we urge you to reexamine His place in your life and who is really ruling on your life's “throne”!

RIGHTEOUS LIVING VERSUS WORLDLY COMPROMISE AND A RELIGIOUS VENEER

God's requirements of His chosen people were encompassing for a wonderful reason: He had the **welfare of His beloved** in mind and had singled them out as a people to **represent Him in righteous living**. Each command of what to do or what to avoid was **an expression of love** for God and for their "neighbor". Here's how He explained it through Moses:

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12,13).

The difference between people who say they serve God and those who *really do* serve Him is their motive: they **show their love** for God and for other people **by obeying what He says!** In His discussion with a law expert cited in Luke 10:25-28, Jesus zeroed in on the **heart motive of love** in our obedience. It's out of love that we can perceive God's commands as light rather than as burdensome—because we want to please our Father as we do His will (1Jn 3:21,22). And living righteously in and through and for our Lord is wrapped around **loving Him and loving one another** (1John 5:2,3).

In light of this discussion, what adjustments to **your motives and life choices** do you need to reconsider for yourself, your family, and those close to you in your faith family?