

The Seen God of the Old Testament Or The Manifest Yahweh, our Lord Jesus Christ in His Form as the Divine Equal

Setting Forth the Antiquity of Our Lord in His Pre-Incarnate Existence

Mt 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Mt 22:44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Mr 10:40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared.

Mr 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Lu 20:42 And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Ac 2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

Ac 2:34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

The Issue Clearly Stated:

As we approach the study of the SEEN OR MANIFEST YAHWEH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT we must realize that He is a Divine Being and not just a personality. He is a Manifest or seen God or Yahweh in the Old Testament, He is not just a personality. We must realize that each divine Being in the Godhead is revealed unto us in the Old Testament as Yahweh. The Holy Spirit is often called Yahweh in the Old Testament. God the Father is often called Yahweh in the Old

Testament, and God the Son is often called Yahweh in the Old Testament.

A Governing Rule

We have determined that when we see a Divine Being or Hear His voice, if He is named *Elohem, Yahweh-Elohem* or *Yahweh*, as long as He is manifested in such a way as being seen or heard, He in indeed the God Man, Jesus Christ. If He is not seen or heard, then this Divine Being is either God the Father or God the Holy Spirit. The Scripture setting must help us determine this.

A Godhead of Divine Beings

This is a Godhead of Divine Beings, not One Being with tri-Personalities or tri-Manifestations.

The Father is a Divine Being, He is more than a personality or manifestation.

God the Eternal Word is a Being, He is more than a personality or manifestation.

God the Holy Spirit is a Being, He is more than a personality or manifestation. The Biblical Godhead is a Godhead of Three Divine Beings. There is no such thing as a Godhead of three personalities or three manifestations presented in the Sacred Scriptures.

God the Son or the Eternal Word considered in His hypostatic union has been clearly manifested in the Old Testament and seen often by the saints of old. God the Holy Spirit was seen in form as a dove at Christ's baptism, and God the Father SHALL BE seen at the Second Coming of Christ as the One Who sits on the Throne in distinction from the Lamb.

Introduction to this second part:

Here is the sum of what we hope to establish in this second part:

1. Christ Jesus as the Man, the Mediator of the New and Everlasting Covenant, has existed in two forms;
2. The Existence of Christ Jesus in His first form is as the Father's Equal, in His Second Form He is the Father's Servant;
3. In His First Form as the Father's Equal, Christ received given or communicated glory from the Father;
4. He not only received this communicated glory from the Father, but also He gave His elected brothers and sisters this VERY SAME GLORY HE RECEIVED FROM THE FATHER;

5. This very same glory the elect had in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world, not in their actual beings, for they did not yet have their actual beings, but **ONLY BY THEIR UNION WITH CHRIST IN HIS FIRST FORM.**
6. The elect lost this in Adam, even as Christ laid aside His First Form to take on His Second Form, being first the Father's Divine Equal then the Father's Servant.
7. It is our position that Christ stood face to face with His Father before creation **BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD EXPERIENCED THE HYPOSTATIC UNION WITH GOD THE ETERNAL WORD.**
8. It is also our position that because the elect stood in Christ by eternal union, they also stood face to face with the Father, but only in Christ Jesus, and they will again be able to see His face in the coming glory world:

Job 19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Mt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Please note here that Jesus did not say that the pure in heart are now seeing God, but they shall see God. The Sabellian Version would read, Blessed are the Pure in Heart, for they ARE NOW SEEING GOD.

Rev. 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

We now move on.

We have established from the very words of Jesus Christ and other inspired writers that no man has yet seen the Father. No natural man has yet heard His voice nor seen His shape at any time. The question then must be answered, WHO DID THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS SEE?

If Christ Jesus was not the Heavenly Man before His Incarnation, and if He did not exist except as God the Eternal Word, that is as Pure Divine Spirit only, then Who did the Old Testament Saints see?

PLEASE NOTE THIS POINT WELL:

The God of Israel, or the Manifested *Elohim* or *Yahweh* in the Old Testament is capable of being seen. How is He capable of being seen? Is the God of Israel any less of a God than the unseen God or the Father that Jesus said no man has ever seen?

It is our position that the Old Testament Saints did see our Lord Jesus Christ in His first form, that is, as the DIVINE EQUAL,

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has appeared in two forms. The first is the divine equal. The second is as the servant of *Yahweh*.

We are not suggesting that Christ did in any way appear in the Old Testament in His incarnate form. He did not appear at anytime in His form as the Servant of *Yahweh*, but He did always appear in the Old Testament as the Divine Equal.

Christ Jesus had a glory given to Him by the Father from before the foundation of the world. This is the glory of His first form, the Divine Equal.

On Brother Leroy Rhodes's church site you will find the writings of that great old Particular Baptist writer of the early 1800s, S E Pierce. Please consider well Pierce's commentary on John 17. Brother John O'Brien placed this great old commentary into MS Word and in this form in MS Word it can be found. S E Pierce rightly shows that the Being praying in John 17 is our Lord Jesus Christ as the MAN, the Mediator of the New Covenant.

I Tim. 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

As the Man, Christ Jesus prayed unto His heavenly Father, He prayed for one wonderful event!

Christ Jesus prayed in John 17 that He would return to the glory that He had with the FATHER BEFORE THE WORLD WAS!

Notice also that this glory of Christ was a GIVEN OR COMMUNICATED GLORY. The Father gave this glory to Christ.

Christ returned to this glory in His resurrection. In Christ's resurrection He was again as He was before creation, in the glory the Father gave to Him before the world.

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Please notice again this is GIVEN OR COMMUNICATED GLORY FROM THE FATHER.

Christ is not speaking of any essential Divine glory He had as God the Word, but rather a communicated or given glory from God the Father.

Are we going to suggest that one Divine Being, the Father must give glory to another Divine Being, God the Eternal Word? I think not! God the Father gave His only begotten Son communicated glory before all creation. This means that Jesus Christ in His Manhood received communicated glory from the Father, not Jesus Christ in His Godhood, as the Eternal Word.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of a given or communicated glory He had from the Father in the Father's love given to Him before the foundation of the world. He prayed to return to this love and this glory the Father gave to Him before the foundation of the world.

The Father heard this prayer of Christ and did return Him to this glory of Christ's first form. He came forth after His resurrection and ascended to the father and by this returned back to His communicated glory in this first form, in His Father's glory.

Ro 1:4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Now also please notice that Christ did something with this communicated glory He had received from the Father:

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

The important question here is **WHEN DID CHRIST SHARE THE FATHER'S GLORY WITH HIS ELECT?**

In my opinion Christ communicated His Father's glory that He received from His Father unto His brothers and sisters **BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!**

Christ Jesus received His Father's glory and shared it with His brothers and sisters the very moment HE RECEIVED IT! The elected brothers and sisters of Christ stood in eternal union with Christ Jesus and what Christ received, they, by eternal union also received in Him, with Him, and by Him everything that He received!!! In this present evil world the elect, some of them at least, manifest this glory by their obedience in walking in the very same gospel faith, order, worship and works that Christ Jesus walked in.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

We are therefore also the Heirs of God and Join Heirs with Christ because Christ shared His Father's precreative glory with us in our Eternal Union with Him.

Ro 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Certainly we did lose this in our Adamic Fall, but we shall again have it when Christ comes the Second time and raises us from the dead and glorifies us with His own glory!

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Here is the sum of what we have said so far in this second part:

Christ Jesus as the Man, the Mediator of the New and Everlasting Covenant has existed in two forms.

The Existence of Christ Jesus in His first form is as the Father's Equal, in His Second Form He is the Father's Servant;

In His First form as the Father's Equal, Christ received given or communicated glory from the Father;

He not only received this communicated glory from the Father, but also He gave His elected brothers and sisters this VERY SAME GLORY HE RECEIVED FROM THE FATHER;

This very same glory the elect had in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world, not in their actual beings, for they did

not yet have their actual beings, but ONLY BY THEIR UNION WITH CHRIST IN HIS FIRST FORM.

The elect lost this in Adam, even as Christ laid aside His First Form to take on His Second Form, going from the Father's Divine Equal to the Father's Servant.

It is our position that Christ stood face to face with His Father before creation BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD EXPERIENCED THE HYPOSTATIC UNION WITH GOD THE ETERNAL WORD.

John 1:1 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.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Notice this:

When Christ was in His Second Form as the Servant of *Yahweh*, He made no impression upon anyone, but was the subject of rejection and ridicule!

Isaiah 53: 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

When Christ was in His First Form as the Divine Equal He made lasting and terrifying impressions upon His elect everytime He appeared unto them!

Notice BEFORE HIS INCARNATION AS HE APPEARED UNTO JOSHUA:

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

Notice after His incarnation was over, and He again was in His Father's glory, as the Divine Equal in His first form, as He appeared unto the Apostle John:

Rev. 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

John saw Him in His first form. Christ appeared unto John just as He appeared unto Joshua, though under different Titles. When Christ appeared unto John, He was in His glorious form and yet also in Union with His elected brothers and sisters as they walked in visible, manifest gospel order as the Seven Churches or Golden Candlesticks.

Having said all this about the two forms of Christ, we are now ready to take up some of Christ's manifestations in the Old Testament as He appeared unto His elect and made a very lasting and strong impression on them.

We will now consider some of the appearances of the Seen God or Manifest Yahweh in the Old Testament.

Ex. 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: . . . also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

As we consider this wonderful passage from Exodus 24, we must ask ourselves these questions:

Why were they able to see this Divine Being called “The God of Israel” and they were not consumed?

Did this God of Israel possess less glory and brightness here and that is why the Elders or Israel were not consumed?

Was this God of Israel, God the Father, or was this Divine Being then called “The God of Israel,” our Lord Jesus Christ in His mediatorial glory as the God-Man?

Please note this point very well, No man has ever seen the Father, but they did see the God of Israel. Therefore, the God of Israel was not the Father.

Joh 6:46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

Joh 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.

Again, we ask, how then could The God of Israel be manifested unto the elders of Israel and eat and drink with them, at least in company with them, AND THEY WERE NOT CONSUMED, except He did so as the Mediatorial God-Man?

How did the glory of the God of Israel not consume the elders of Israel except as the Mediatorial God-Man?

In the Old Testament the God of Israel was Jesus Christ, the Manifest Yahweh, or the God-Man in His first form, as the Divine Equal!

In this form Jesus Christ was the Begotten one both begotten and set up before creation:

From the King James Text:

Proverbs 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

From the Ancient Greek Text, the pre-Christ LXX:

22 The Lord made me the beginning of his ways for his works.

22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 He established me {1} before time was in the beginning, before he made the earth: {1} Gr. before the age}

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 even before he made the depths; before the fountains of water came forth:

24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

25 before the mountains were settled, and before all hills, he begets me.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 The Lord made countries and uninhabited *tracks*, and the highest inhabited parts of the world.

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heaven, I was present with him; and when he {1} prepared his throne upon the winds: {1} Or, marked out}

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 and when he strengthened the clouds above; and when he secured the fountains of the earth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 {1} and when he strengthened the foundations of the earth: {1} Alex. When he set to the sea its bound, and the waters shall not pass his (2) decree 2) Gr. mouth}

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 I was by him, {1} suiting *myself to him*, I was that wherein he took delight; and daily I rejoiced in his presence continually. {1} Or, arranging all things}

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 For he rejoiced when he had completed the world, and rejoiced among the children of men.

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

In my opinion here when the Scriptures says that He rejoiced when He had completed the world, and rejoiced among the children of men, the writer is speaking of Christ's rejoicing among the elect of God that the Father had given unto Him.

Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Here a begotten Being Who was both *begotten* and *set up* before creation. This we hold to be our Lord Jesus Christ, in His first form, not as the Eternal Word Who is self-existent, but as the Man, even the God-Man, Christ Jesus in His first form as the Divine Equal.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

We must always believe in the Eternal Sonship of Jesus Christ, but only in His sacred humanity. We must always believe in the heavenly origin of this humanity rather than the earthy or Adamic origin of this humanity.

We must always believe in the eternal generation of Jesus Christ, but ONLY in His Sacred and heavenly Manhood, His first form, but never in His deity, He is not a begotten God no matter what St Basil, Pearson, Waterland, Dr. Gill or Bishop George Bull said.

So, IN CONCLUSION we affirm that our Lord Jesus Christ did appear many different times in the Old Testament in His first form. At His ascension, He returned to His first form at the right hand of the Father. He will be in this first form at His Second Coming and for ever and ever.