

THE SAME GOD, THE ONE & ONLY

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PSALM 24

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

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Do you know **THE GOD** whose WORD (the Bible) says that in the beginning He created the heavens and the earth, and all that is on the earth, that is, all creatures in the seas, all creatures that fly in the skies, and all creatures that move upon the earth, including man (that is men and women)? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who dealt with the sin of Adam and Eve and the slaying of Abel by his brother Cain? Do you know **THE SAME GOD** that sent a great flood upon the earth because of the wickedness of man but spared Noah and his family? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who watched as man wanted to make a name for themselves by building the tower of Babel, so He confused their language so that they were then scattered abroad over the earth? Do you know **THE SAME GOD** that made a covenant with Abraham that He would bless him and make him a great nation in whom all the families of the earth would be blessed? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who blessed Jacob with being the father of the twelve tribes of Israel (the new name **THE SAME GOD, THE ONE & ONLY** gave Jacob)? Do you know **THE SAME GOD** who sent Moses to deliver Israel after 430 years of bondage to Egypt? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who led the Israelites (after 40 years of disobedience) to the Promised Land? And then who sent Joshua and Caleb and the Israelites into the Promised Land? Do you know **THE SAME GOD** who raised up judges to rule over Israel? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who gave Israel a king (despite His perfect will) and then other kings to reign over Israel and Judah for the next 400 or so years while also sending prophets to speak to His people through that time?

Do you know **THE SAME GOD** who allowed His people to go once again into captivity (the Northern Kingdom to the Assyrians and then the Southern Kingdom to the Babylonians)? Do you know **THE ONE & ONLY** who was silent then for 400 years with regards to His written Word? Do you know **THE SAME GOD** who sent His Son Jesus to be born of a virgin, who took on the shame and sufferings and the shedding of His blood by being beaten, mocked, spit on, and then crucified on a cross, to become the Savior of the world, to all who will believe and will call upon the name of the Lord? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

Yes, He IS **THE ONE & ONLY** who sent His Son Jesus who IS "the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2) Is He not then worthy of our praise & worship? **THE SAME GOD** who King David referred to in saying, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1) Is not He, who is **THE ONE & ONLY**, worthy of all glory, honor and praise? The word selah in our passage of Scripture today has no clear translation but it popularly believed to be a rest in musical notation. I couldn't help but think of the similarity to the French word, "c'est la vie" [pronounced say la vee]. It means "that is the life" or "that's life." Kind of like a so be it or an amen as we say.

When Moses asked God who to tell Pharaoh it is that is sending him, **THE SAME GOD** said, "I AM that I AM." When we refer to God, capital G, we are speaking of Him as a title, not that God is His name. In the older manuscripts of the Old Testament, God is referred to as either Elohim or as YHWH (which we pronounce and sometimes spell as Yahweh). Usually, at least in the culture we are familiar with, we refer to Him as God or Lord, most likely, since typically in modern English translations, YHWH was translated as LORD and Elohim was translated as God. Sometimes we refer to God as our "Heavenly Father", most likely since when Jesus was asked how to pray, Jesus started the prayer, "our Father in heaven". But no matter who we refer to Him as, if we are speaking of the "God" in the Bible, all 66 books included, from Genesis to Revelation, we are speaking of **THE SAME GOD**. For **THE ONE & ONLY GOD** says "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last" (Revelation 22:13). He is **THE SAME GOD** the Apostle Paul spoke of in saying, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

As David asked in what we refer to as Psalm 24:10, "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory." There is but

One! Even before God had delivered the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt, God said of them, "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians." (**Exodus 6:7**) In the last book of the Pentateuch, which is the first five books of the Bible, which is also called the Torah by the Jewish people, or bible scholars or students of Biblical history, we find in the last book of the Pentateuch, in Deuteronomy, God has Moses remind the Israelites of all God had taken them through and all that God had commanded of them in leading them out of captivity and to the Promised Land. They were right at the border of the Promised Land and God had to instruct His people once again of all they needed to know. First and foremost, He reminded them that "the Lord Himself is God [capital G]; there is none other besides Him (**Deuteronomy 4:35**) He warned them by saying, "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." (**Deuteronomy 4:24**) For they were HIS people. But seeing the beginning and the end, knowing the Israelites would follow after other gods (lowercase g), God spoke of His mercy and forgiveness to them by saying, "But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them" (**Deuteronomy 4:29-31**).

Prior to his final sermons in the book of Deuteronomy God had Moses say to the Israelites, "For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy for I am holy" (**Leviticus 11:45**). From **Leviticus 18-26** God says, "I am the Lord", "I am the Lord your God", "I am the Lord their God", "I the Lord sanctify them", and "I am the Lord who sanctifies you". God alone is the One who sanctifies them, sets them apart from others in His righteousness, His holiness. And in **Leviticus 10:3**, He says, "'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified'" (NKJV). After Moses had reminded the Israelites of the Ten Commandments, God said in **Deuteronomy 5:29**, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" In **Deuteronomy 6:5**, God said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." And then He says in **Deuteronomy 7:6** "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."

Perhaps someone may wonder why bringing up stories in the Old Testament that happened thousands of years ago has any relevance to us today. In An Introduction to the Old Testament, Pentateuch,

the author says, "Throughout the book [of Deuteronomy], Moses spoke to the Israelites in a series of messages that are often sermonic in style. Even when he dealt with specific laws, Moses exhorted and encouraged the nation to obey the Lord fully...Occasionally Moses brought together events that were widely separated chronologically and in other places he included insights that were paranthetical in nature. Time after time he challenged the Israelites to follow the Lord and experience great blessing." He is **THE ONE & ONLY**, and **SAME GOD** today.

When we examine what Moses spoke of in his messages, which of course were messages that God told Moses to tell the people, we find something very interesting. For starters it can be said that the entirety of the Bible is God's Word to His people. That is from Genesis to Revelation. While the Penteteuch was previously mentioned, we find, as was well stated by Terence Fret-heim in his book The Penteteuch, "The Penteteuch does not stand alone; it is integrally related to the rest of the Old Testament," and is tied into the Psalms, the prophets, Joshua, and the Kings, and "from Genesis to Kings is a continuous story from the creation through the origins and development of Israel and the long journey of their life in the promised land, climaxing in the destruction of Jerusalem and exile." Likewise it can be said and we need to understand, the Old Testament does not stand alone either. The Old Testament and the New Testament are God's Word to His people, to us. There are several hundred prophesies of Jesus alone in the Old Testament. And as Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (**Matthew 24:35**)

It could certainly be argued that the climax is yet to come, given what is prophesied to happen in the book of Revelation, or of what Jesus said would happen in **Luke 21:27**, "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Or it can be said the climax happened on Calvary when Jesus died for all of our sins, to all of us who believe, or when Jesus conquered death, metaphysically speaking, when He rose from the dead on the third day. What we find in all things considered is that the same messages that Moses was speaking to the Israelites back then is the same messages Jesus and the Apostles were preaching in the New Testament. What messages would that be, you may ask? I'm glad you asked. I've already mentioned them. First off, the God of the Psalmist said "But You are the same, and Your years will have no end." (**Psalms 102:27**) He is **THE SAME GOD** that the writer of Hebrews said, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (**Hebrews 13:8**). Then **THE ONE & ONLY GOD** that said to the Israelites, "the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him", is **THE SAME GOD** who says to us, His people in the New Covenant, "there is no other God but one (**1 Corinthians 8:4**) and that "In the beginning was the Word, and the

Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (**John 1:1-3**). Yes, now we see more clearly the Redemption that comes from God that is through our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, who came from God.

THE ONE & ONLY GOD who told the Israelites, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength," (**Deuteronomy 6:5**) is **THE SAME GOD** who spoke through Jesus saying the greatest commandment of God is that "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." **THE SAME GOD** who said to the Israelites, "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth", is the same God who says to us today in **1 Peter 2:9**, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." The God who said to the Israelites, "For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy for I am holy" (**Leviticus 11:45**) is the same God who says to us in **1 Peter 1:16**, "Be holy, as He is holy."

THE ONE & ONLY GOD who said to the Israelites, "I am the Lord who sanctifies you", is **THE SAME GOD** who says in **Jude 1:1**, "To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ" and in **1 Corinthians 1:30-31** "But of Him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." The **THE ONE & ONLY GOD** who spoke to the Israelites 1000s of years ago, is the **THE SAME GOD** who speaks to us through His Word today. Moses spoke of what was hoped for, from the beginning to the end, in **Deuteronomy 18:18-19** "I will raise up for them a Prophet (Him being Jesus) like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." **THE ONE & ONLY GOD** who said to the Israelites, "'I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians" (**Exodus 6:7**) is **THE SAME GOD** who says to us today in the words of Jesus, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (**Matthew 11:28-29**) **THE ONE & ONLY GOD** who led the Israelites by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day is **THE SAME**

GOD who places His Spirit in us to where His Word says in **Romans 8:14-17**, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." (**Romans 8:14-17**)

He is **THE SAME GOD** Who says to us, in the words of Jesus "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

What is different today versus the time of the Israelites in the Old Testament is that the Mystery has now been revealed. The mystery of our righteousness and redemption that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. As Oswald Chambers puts it in My Utmost For His Highest, "The purity which God demands is impossible unless I can be remade within, and that is what Jesus has undertaken to do by His Redemption. No man can make himself pure by obeying laws. Jesus Christ does not give us rules and regulations; His teachings are truths that can only be interpreted by the disposition that HE puts in. The great marvel of Jesus Christ's salvation is that He alters heredity. He does not alter human nature; He alters its mainspring. It becomes Him that flows through us! No longer do we sacrifice animals and walk in the spirit of the law for "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (**Romans 8:1-2**). We have all been grafted into the vine that was once reserved for the people of Israel so that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved", (**Romans 10:13**) for "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (**Romans 10:9-10**) The veil has been lifted and it is now known of Whom we are redeemed, Who has delivered us out of the darkness and into His marvelous light, Who now calls us to walk in the newness of life that we now have in Christ Jesus our Lord; to all who will believe! In Closing, Andrew Murray, in Abide in Christ said this, "Why is it that, when we possess a Savior whose love and lower are infinite, we are so often filled with fear and despondency? We are wearied and faint in our minds, because we do not look steadfastly unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, Who is set down at the right hand of God-unto Him whose omnipotence embraces

both heaven and earth, who is strong and mighty in His feeble saints...Blessed life! it is ours, for Jesus is ours. Blessed life! We have the possession within us in its hidden power, and we have the prospect before us in its fullest glory. May our daily lives be the bright and blessed proof that the hidden power dwells within, preparing us for the glory to be revealed. May our abiding in Christ the Glorified One be our power to live to the glory of the Father, our fitness to share to the glory of the Son." "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." "Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory."